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# MORAL BIOGRAPHY.

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# Moral Biography;

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WORTHIES OF ENGLAND

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THEIR VIRTUES AND TALENTS.

DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF

PRIVATE FAMILIES

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1798.

# Algal Biography

## PREFACE



Under the new arrangement of this  
work, the present part has been  
entirely new, and contains a new  
series of illustrations. The  
text as now revised to form a complete  
of Marine Botany, adapted for the  
general or young persons either in private  
families or public schools.



## PREFACE.



IT has been justly remarked, that by having “before our eyes the principles of men of honour and probity, enforced by example, we may be animated to fix upon some great model for the rule of our conduct, and at the same time we shall pay the only tribute in our power to the memory of their public and private virtues.”

Under the immediate impresson of this remark, the present publication has been undertaken, and such *selections* made from the memoirs of ILLUSTRIOUS ENGLISHMEN, as may serve to form a compendium of MORAL BIOGRAPHY, adapted to the perusal of young persons either in private families or public schools.

The

The Editor therefore humbly submits this work to his patrons and friends, from the hope that it may prove defirable, as no attempt, on so convenient a scale, has before been offered to their attention.

*Strand,*  
Oct. 1797.

G. S.

CON-

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# MORAL BIOGRAPHY.

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## JOSEPH ADDISON.

“ He taught us how to live, and, oh! too high  
The price of knowledge, taught us how to die.”

TICKELL.

JOSEPH ADDISON, the son of Launce-  
lot Addison, dean of Litchfield, was  
born at Milston, near Ambrosbury, in the  
county of Wilts, of which place his father  
was then rector, on the first of May,  
1672.

The first rudiments of education he  
received under the care of the Rev. Mr.  
Naish, at Ambrosbury. He was after-  
wards removed to a school at Salisbury,  
and from thence to the Charter-house,  
where he was under the tuition of the  
learned Dr. Ellis, and where he contracted  
an intimacy with Mr. Steele, afterwards  
Sir Richard, which lasted as long as Mr.  
Addison lived.

He was not above fifteen when he  
went to the university of Oxford, where  
he was entered of Queen's college, in  
which his father had studied. He applied

B

himself

himself at this time with such diligence to classical learning, that he had acquired an elegant Latin style before he arrived at that age in which lads usually begin to write good English.

A paper of his verses in that tongue fell, by accident, in the year 1687, into the hands of Dr. Lancaster, dean of Magdalen college, who was so well pleased with them, that he immediately procured their author's election into that house, where he took his degrees of bachelor and master of arts.

He was twenty-two years of age before he published any thing in English; and then appeared a copy of verses addressed to Mr. Dryden, which procured him immediately, and that very deservedly, from the best judges in that nice age, a great reputation.

Mr. Addison now finding his reputation in some degree established as a poet, obliged the world frequently with poems upon different subjects; amongst the rest, one dated the third of April, 1694, directed to Mr. H. S. that is, Henry Sacheverell, who was afterwards the famous Dr. Sacheverell, with whom Mr. Addison lived in perfect friendship.

The following year Mr. Addison began to have higher views, which discovered themselves in a poem to King William, on one of his campaigns, addressed to the

the lord-keeper Sir John Somers, which found many readers.

In 1731, Mr. Addison wrote from Italy an epistolary poem to Montague, Lord Halifax. This was most justly admired as a finished piece of its kind; and indeed some have pronounced it the very best of Mr. Addison's poetical performances.

In 1699 he made the tour of Italy, and returned home in 1703.

In 1705 he published an account of his travels, dedicated to Lord Somers. From want of taste this performance was at first but indifferently received, but it rose to five times the original price before a second edition could be printed.

The same year Mr. Addison attended Lord Halifax to Hanover; and in the succeeding year he was made choice of for under-secretary to Sir Charles Hedges, then appointed secretary of state; and soon after, the Earl of Sunderland succeeding Sir Charles in that office, continued Mr. Addison in the post of under-secretary.

While he was in Ireland, his friend Steele published the Tatler, which appeared for the first time on the 12th of April, 1709.

The papers written by Mr. Addison were not distinguished in this collection by any mark; but Sir Richard Steele, at the request of Mr. Tickell, pointed them out



to him; and not only so, but showed him such as they were jointly concerned in: and these, as well as his own, are printed in the second volume of Mr. Addison's works.

Immediately after the Tatler was laid down, Sir Richard Steele formed the project of the Spectator; the plan of which he concerted with Mr. Addison.

The first paper appeared on the 1st of March, 1711. So celebrated and popular were the papers of the Spectator, in their first origin, that the sale was calculated to be no less than 1680 daily: it may therefore at this day appear but common justice to the talents and virtues of the author, that it should have a place in every library. In the course of that celebrated work, Mr. Addison furnished a great part of those papers which were most admired. It was finished on the sixth of September, 1712. To prevent any disputes or mistake, which might otherwise have happened, he took care to distinguish his papers, throughout the whole, by one of the letters in the name of the muse CLIO.

The Guardian, a paper in the same taste, and, which is saying much more, in the same spirit, entertained the town in the years 1713 and 1714. Mr. Addison had a large share therein, and his papers were particularly applauded. He also



wrote once or twice in the *Lover*, another periodical paper.

In 1713 appeared his famous tragedy of *Cato*. As a specimen of Mr. Addison's talents for poetry, we offer the following lines to the notice of our young readers, taken from the said play.

*Cato's Soliloquy.*

*Cato sitting in a thoughtful posture: In his hand Plato's book on the immortality of the soul. A drawn sword on the table by him.*

IT must be so—Plato, thou reason'st well!—  
 Else whence this pleasing hope, this fond desire,  
 This longing after immortality?  
 Or whence this secret dread, and inward horror,  
 Of falling into nought? Why shrinks the soul  
 Back on herself, and startles at destruction?  
 'Tis the divinity that stirs within us;  
 'Tis heaven itself, that points out an hereafter,  
 And intimates eternity to man.  
 Eternity! thou pleasing, dreadful thought!  
 Through what variety of untried being,  
 Through what new scenes and changes must we pass!  
 The wide, th' unbounded prospect lies before me;  
 But shadows, clouds, and darkness, rest upon it.  
 Here will I hold. If there's a power above us,  
 (And that there is, all nature cries aloud  
 Through all her works) he must delight in virtue;  
 And that which he delights in must be happy.

It is to be hoped no apology is necessary for giving the following much-admired *Ode* of our author a place in the present work:

## AN ODE.

## I.

THE spacious firmament on high,  
 With all the blue ethereal sky,  
 And spangled heavens, a shining frame,  
 Their great original proclaim.  
 Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,  
 Does his Creator's power display ;  
 And publishes, to every land,  
 The work of an Almighty hand.

## II.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
 The moon takes up the wondrous tale ;  
 And nightly, to the listening earth,  
 Repeats the story of her birth :  
 Whilst all the stars that round her burn,  
 And all the planets, in their turn,  
 Confirm the tidings as they roll,  
 And spread the truth from pole to pole.

## III.

What though, in solemn silence, all  
 Move round the dark terrestrial ball ;  
 What though no real voice, nor sound,  
 Amidst their radiant orbs be found :  
 In Reason's ear they all rejoice,  
 And utter forth a glorious voice ;  
 For ever singing as they shine,  
 The hand that made us is divine.

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In his leisure moments he applied himself to a work on the evidences of Christianity, the first part whereof, though unfinished, is preserved and printed in his works. He likewise intended to have paraphrased some of the Psalms of David ; but a long and painful relapse broke all his

his designs, and deprived the world of this excellent person, in the month of June, 1719. He died at Holland-house, near Kensington, and left behind him an only daughter, by the Countess Dowager of Warwick, whom he married in 1716.

Dr. Johnson observes of Mr. Addison, "As a describer of life and manners, he must be allowed to stand perhaps the first of the first rank.

"As a teacher of wisdom, he may be confidently followed. His religion has nothing in it enthusiastic or superstitious: he appears neither weakly credulous, nor wantonly sceptical; his morality is neither dangerously lax, nor impracticably rigid. All the enchantment of fancy, and all the cogency of argument, are employed to recommend to the reader his real interest, the care of pleasing the Author of his being. Truth is shown sometimes as the phantom of a vision; sometimes appears half-veiled in an allegory; sometimes attracts regard in the robes of fancy, and sometimes steps forth in the confidence of reason. She wears a thousand dresses, and in all is pleasing."

Of the manner of Mr. Addison's death some account has been given by Dr. Young. From him we learn, that after a long and manly, but vain struggle with his distemper, Mr. Addison dismissed his physicians, and with them all hopes of



life. But with his hopes of life he dismissed not his concern for the living; but sent for the young Earl of Warwick, son to his lady by a former husband, who immediately came; but life now glimmering in the socket, the Earl was silent. But after a decent and proper pause, his Lordship said, "Dear Sir, you sent for me: "I believe and hope that you have some "commands; I shall hold them most "sacred." Forcibly grasping the Earl's hand, Mr. Addison softly replied, "See "in what peace a Christian can die!" He spoke with great difficulty, and soon expired.

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### ALFRED.

**THE** merit of Alfred, both in private and public life, may with advantage be set in opposition to that of any monarch which the annals of any age or any nation can present to us. He seems indeed to be the model of that perfect character which, under the denomination of a sage or wise man, philosophers have been fond of delineating, rather as a fiction of their imagination, than in hopes of ever seeing it really existing: so happily were all his virtues tempered together; so justly were they blended; and so powerfully did each prevent the other from exceeding its proper



per boundaries! He knew how to reconcile the most enterprising spirit with the coolest moderation; the most severe justice with the gentlest lenity; the greatest vigour in commanding with the most perfect affability of deportment; the highest capacity and inclination for science, with the most shining talents for action. His civil and military virtues are almost equally the objects of our admiration: excepting only, that the former, being more rare among princes, as well as more useful, seem chiefly to challenge our applause. Fortune alone, by throwing him into a barbarous age, deprived him of historians worthy to transmit his fame to posterity; and we wish to see him delineated in more lively colours, and with more particular strokes, that we may at least perceive some of those small specks and blemishes, from which, as a man, it is impossible he could be entirely exempted.

But we should give but an imperfect idea of Alfred's merit, were we to confine our narration to his military exploits, and were not more particular in our account of his institutions for the execution of justice, and of his zeal for the encouragement of arts and sciences.

After Alfred had subdued, and had settled or expelled the Danes, he found the kingdom in the most wretched condition; desolated by the ravages of those

barbarians, and thrown into disorders, which were calculated to perpetuate its misery. Though the great armies of the Danes were broken, the country was full of straggling troops of that nation, who, being accustomed to live by plunder, were become incapable of industry; and who, from the natural ferocity of their manners, indulged themselves in committing violence, even beyond what was requisite to supply their necessities. The English themselves, reduced to the most extreme indigence by these continued depredations, had shaken off all bands of government; and those who had been plundered to-day, betook themselves next day to the like disorderly life, and, from despair, joined the robbers in pillaging and ruining their fellow-citizens. These were the evils for which it was necessary that the vigilance and activity of Alfred should provide a remedy.

That he might render the execution of justice strict and regular, he divided all England into counties; these counties he subdivided into hundreds, and the hundreds into tithings. Every householder was answerable for the behaviour of his family and slaves, and even of his guests, if they lived above three days in his house. And no man could change his habitation, without a warrant or certificate from the householder

borsholder of the tithing to which he formerly belonged.

Such a regular distribution of the people, with such a strict confinement in their habitation, may not be necessary in times when men are more enured to obedience and justice. But Alfred took care to temper these rigours by other institutions favourable to the freedom of the citizens; and nothing could be more popular and liberal than his plan for the administration of justice. The borsholder summoned together his whole decennary to assist him in deciding any lesser difference which occurred among the members of this small community. In affairs of greater moment, in appeals from the decennary, or in controversies arising between members of different decennaries, the cause was brought before the hundred, which consisted of ten decennaries, or a hundred families of freemen, and which was regularly assembled once in four weeks for the deciding of causes. Their method of decision deserves to be noted, as being the origin of juries; an institution, admirable in itself, and the best calculated for the preservation of liberty and the administration of justice, that ever was devised by the wit of man. Twelve freeholders were chosen; who, having sworn, together with the hundreder, or presiding magistrate of that division, to administer im-



partial justice, proceeded to the examination of that cause which was submitted to their jurisdiction. And besides these monthly meetings of the hundred, there was an annual meeting, appointed for a more general inspection of the police of the district; for the inquiry into crimes, the correction of abuses in magistrates, and the obliging of every person to show the decennary in which he was registered.

The next superior court to that of the hundred was the county-court, which met twice a year, after Michaelmas and Easter, and consisted of the freeholders of the county, who possessed an equal vote in the decision of causes.

The better to guide the magistrates in the administration of justice, Alfred framed a body of laws; which, though now lost, served long as the basis of English jurisprudence, and is generally deemed the origin of what is denominated the common law. He appointed regular meetings of the states of England twice a year in London; a city which he himself had repaired and beautified; and which he thus rendered the capital of the kingdom. The similarity of these institutions to the customs of the ancient Germans, to the practice of the other northern conquerors, and to the Saxon laws during the Heptarchy, prevents us from regarding Alfred as the sole author of this plan of government;



ment; and leads us rather to think, that, like a wise man, he contented himself with reforming, extending, and executing the institutions which he found previously established. But, on the whole, such success attended his legislation, that every thing bore suddenly a new face in England: robberies and iniquities of all kinds were repressed by the punishment or reformation of the criminals: and so exact was the general police, that Alfred, it is said, hung up, by way of bravado, golden bracelets near the highways; and no man dared to touch them. Yet, amidst these rigours of justice, this great prince preserved the most sacred regard to the liberty of his people; and it is a memorable sentiment preserved in his will, that it was just the English should for ever remain as free as their own thoughts.

As good morals and knowledge are almost inseparable in every age, though not in every individual; the care of Alfred for the encouragement of learning among his subjects, was another useful branch of his legislation, and tended to reclaim the English from their former dissolute and ferocious manners.

He complained, that on his accession he knew not one person, south of the Thames, who could so much as interpret the Latin service; and very few in the northern parts, who had even reached that  
pitch

pitch of erudition. But this prince invited over the most celebrated scholars from all parts of Europe; he established schools every where for the instruction of his people; he founded, at least repaired, the university of Oxford, and endowed it with many privileges, revenues, and immunities; he enjoined by law all freeholders possessed of two hydes\* of land, or more, to send their children to school for their instruction; he gave preferment both in church and state to such only as had made some proficiency in knowledge: and by all these expedients he had the satisfaction, before his death, to see a great change in the face of affairs; and in a work of his, which is still extant, he congratulates himself on the progress which learning, under his patronage, had already made in England.

But the most effectual expedient, employed by Alfred, for the encouragement of learning, was his own example, and the constant assiduity with which, notwithstanding the multiplicity and urgency of his affairs, he employed himself in the pursuits of knowledge. He usually divided his time into three equal portions: one was employed in sleep, and the re-

\* A hyde contained land sufficient to employ one plough. See H. Hunt. lib. 6. in A. D. 1008. Annal. Waverl. in A. D. 1083. Gervase of Tilbury says, it commonly contained about 100 acres.

fection of his body by diet and exercise; another in the dispatch of business; a third in study and devotion. By such a regular distribution of his time, though he often laboured under great bodily infirmities, this martial hero, who fought in person fifty six battles by sea and land, was able, during a life of no extraordinary length, to acquire more knowledge, and even to compose more books, than most studious men, though blessed with the greatest leisure and application, have, in more fortunate ages, made the object of their uninterrupted industry.

He introduced and encouraged manufactures of all kinds, and set apart a seventh portion of his own revenue for maintaining a number of workmen, whom he constantly employed in rebuilding the ruined cities, castles, palaces, and monasteries. Both living and dead, Alfred was regarded by foreigners, no less than by his own subjects, as the greatest prince after Charlemagne that had appeared in Europe during several ages, and as one of the wisest and best that ever adorned the annals of any nation.

He died 901, after a glorious reign of twenty-nine years and a half; and happy are the youth who imitate his virtues.

LORD



## LORD ANSON.

**GEORGE ANSON**, whose great merit as a naval officer raised him to the dignity of a peer of Great Britain, was the second and youngest son of William Anson, Esq. of Shuckborough.

He very early devoted himself to the sea service, and was made captain of the *Weazel* sloop in 1722; and, the year following, of the *Scarborough* man of war. On the breaking out of the Spanish war in 1740, he was recommended to his late Majesty for the command of a squadron destined to annoy the enemy in the South Seas; and, by an unfrequented navigation, to attack them with vigour in their remotest settlements.

Mr. Anson sailed from St. Helen's on the 18th of September, 1740, in the *Centurion* of sixty guns, with the *Gloucester* and *Severn* of fifty each, the *Pearl* of forty, the *Wager* storeship, and the *Trial* sloop.

He kept, for eight months, the whole coast of Peru and Mexico in continual alarm, made several prizes, took and plundered the town of Peyta, and, by his humane behaviour to his prisoners, impressed on their minds a lasting idea of British generosity.

In



In this expedition he met with many and serious calamities; but his great mind surmounted all difficulties; and at length, with the Centurion only, he traversed the vast extent of the Pacific Ocean, a three months voyage; in the course of which, his numbers were so much farther reduced by sickness, that it was with the utmost difficulty he reached the island of Tinian, one of the Ladrones; a place which, from the following description, must be peculiarly inviting:

“ The soil is every where dry and healthy, and somewhat sandy, which being less disposed than other soils to a rank and over-luxuriant vegetation, occasions the meadows and the bottoms of the woods to be much neater and smoother than is customary in hot climates. The land rises, by an easy slope, from the very beach, where he watered, to the middle of the island; though the general course of its ascent is often interrupted and traversed by gentle descents and vallies; and the inequalities, that are formed by the different combinations of these gradual swellings of the ground, are most beautifully diversified by large lawns, which are covered with a very fine tres-foil, intermixed with a variety of flowers, and are skirted by woods of tall and well-spread trees, most of them celebrated either for their aspect or their fruit.

“ The

“ The fortunate animals too, which, for the greatest part of the year, are the sole lords of this happy soil, partake, in some measure, of the romantic cast of the island, and are no small addition to its wonderful scenery : for the cattle, of which it is not uncommon to see herds of some thousands feeding together in a large meadow, are certainly the most remarkable in the world, for they are all of them milk-white, except their ears, which are generally black ; and, though there are no inhabitants here, yet the clamour and frequent parading of domestic poultry, which range the woods in great numbers, perpetually excite the ideas of the neighbourhood of farms and villages, and greatly contribute to the beauty and cheerfulness of the place.

“ The cattle on the island we computed were at least ten thousand ; and we had no difficulty in getting near them, as they were not shy of us. Our first method of killing them was shooting them ; but at last, when, by accidents, we were obliged to husband our ammunition, our men ran them down with ease. Their flesh was extremely well tasted, and was believed by us to be much more easily digested than any we had ever met with.

“ We found here a kind of fruit peculiar to these islands, called by the Indians rima, but by us the bread-fruit ; for it was

was constantly eaten by us during our stay upon the island, instead of bread, and so universally preferred to it, that no ship's bread was expended during that whole interval.

“ It grew upon a tree which was somewhat lofty, and which, towards the top, divides into large and spreading branches. The leaves of this tree are of a remarkable deep green, are notched about the edges, and are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length. The fruit itself grows indifferently on all parts of the branches; it is in shape rather elliptical than round, is covered with a round rind, and is usually seven or eight inches long; each of them grows singly, and not in clusters.

“ Having mentioned the conveniencies, or we may add blessings of this place, I must now observe, that all these advantages were greatly enhanced by the healthiness of its climate, by the almost constant breezes which prevail there, and by the frequent showers which fall, and which, though of a very short and almost momentary duration, are extremely grateful and refreshing.”

It was the middle of the month of October, 1742, before the commodore was in a condition to put to sea again; and on the 12th of November, after a great variety of adventures, he arrived at Macao, which is a Portuguese settlement, situated  
in



in an island at the entrance of the river of Canton, but entirely under the government of the Chinese.

On the last day of May, 1743, the *Centurion* arrived off Cape Espiritu Santo, on the island of Samal, in the direct track by which the Manilla ships return from Acapulco, one of which she captured after a smart engagement, in which the *Nostra Senhora de Cabadonga* had 67 killed and 84 wounded.

He returned with his rich prize to Canton, where he put the treasure on board the *Centurion*, sold the Spanish hulk, and set sail for England.

Soon after his return he was appointed rear-admiral of the blue, and one of the lords of the admiralty. In April, 1745, he was made rear-admiral of the white; and in July, 1746, vice-admiral of the blue. He was also chosen member of parliament for Heydon, in Yorkshire.

For repeated services the late king rewarded him with a peerage, on the 13th of June, by the title of Lord Anson, baron of Soberton, in Hants. On the 15th of July, in the same year, he was appointed vice-admiral of the red; and on the death of Sir John Norris, he was made vice-admiral of England.

The last service his Lordship performed at sea was the convoying to England our present queen; for which purpose he sailed from  
from

from Harwich in the Charlotte yacht, on the 7th of August, 1761; and that day month, after a long and tempestuous voyage, landed the princess at the same place.

The Account of Lord Anson's Voyage round the World is a work too well known to require more than barely to mention it.

His Lordship died 1762, at his seat at Moor Park, where there is a handsome pillar erected to record his memory.

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### ROGER ASCHAM.

**R**OGER ASCHAM was the son of John Ascham, steward to the ancient family of Scroop. He was born at Kirkby-Wiske, in Yorkshire, about the year 1515; and in his early youth he was taken into the family of the Wingfields, by Sir Anthony Wingfield, who became his patron, and finding in him an apt disposition for literary attainments, he sent him in the year 1530 to St. John's college, Cambridge, at the critical juncture when the Greek language began to be taught without opposition in our universities. Our young student being one of those whose mind was fired with generous emulation, applied himself so assiduously

affiduouſly to this branch of learning, that he ſoon became ſo great a proficient, as to be able to read lectures, and to teach other youth, who were deſirous of inſtruction. “ To teach, or to learn, was at this æra the buſineſs and the pleaſure of the academical life;” and young Aſcham had the happineſs to aſſociate with men of uncommon genius, and of ſimilar diſpoſitions with himſelf. Sir John Cheke, who was preceptor to Edward VI. and died in the reign of Mary, of grief, at having recanted his profeſſion of the reformed religion, was his rival and friend. This gentleman, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Smith, ſecretary of ſtate in the reigns of Edward VI. and Elizabeth, had introduced a more juſt pronounciation of the Greek tongue than had before prevailed, which Aſcham at firſt oppoſed, till being convinced that they were in the right, he finally adopted and recommended it in his public lectures; a circumſtance which ſerved to ſtrengthen the ſocial intimacy that had ſubſiſted between the three ſtudents. Mr. Aſcham likewiſe gained the approbation of Dr. Metcalf, the maſter of his college, who, having the intereſt of learning greatly at heart, recommended him to a fellowſhip in 1534, when he was but eighteen years of age. At the ſame time Pember, a perſon of great eminence in the univerſity, and a  
zealous



zealous promoter of the study of the Greek language, took him under his protection, and increased his reputation, not only by applauding his public lectures, but by recommending the young gentlemen of his acquaintance to attend Mr. Ascham at his chambers, to hear the Greek authors read and explained by him.

In 1536 he took the degree of master of arts, and soon after, he was appointed, by the university, teacher of the Greek language in the public schools, for which he had a genteel salary. He likewise commenced tutor, and had several young students of rank under his care for other branches of education; some of whom proved eminent scholars, particularly William Grindal, recommended by Sir John Cheke to be master of languages to the princess Elizabeth.

The reputation of Mr. Ascham, as a man of extensive learning, was so firmly established in the university, that he was elected to the honourable office of public orator, and all the university letters were composed by him; his skill in the Latin language, and his fine writing, which he used to embellish with drawings, having recommended him to these employments.

He was particularly attached to archery, and composed a treatise entitled *Toxophilus*. This he dedicated to Henry VIII. who was so well pleased with it, that he allowed him

him an annual pension of ten pounds, a sum which has been supposed to be equal to one hundred pounds at present. With this pension, and his other appointments in the university, it appears he had a very comfortable income, besides gratuities for teaching persons of the first distinction to write, particularly prince Edward, the princess Elizabeth, and the two brothers, Henry and Charles Brandon, dukes of Suffolk.

Upon the accession of Edward VI. Mr. Ascham's pension was renewed, and he was desired to continue at Cambridge, to promote the cause of the Reformation, in conjunction with his learned friend Bucer, the celebrated German divine, who had been invited over by the university, to fill the chair of divinity professor. But the death of Grindal brought him to court, to attend the princess Elizabeth, whose studies he directed for two years, by her own appointment; and, in this time, she acquired a considerable knowledge of the best Greek and Latin authors, by reading them familiarly with Mr. Ascham. This pleasing task performed, he returned to his former station at the university; and in 1550, being upon a visit in Yorkshire, he received intelligence that he was appointed secretary to Sir Richard Morisine, who was preparing to set out on an embassy to Charles V. emperor of Germany.

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This promotion obliged him to proceed directly to London; but in his journey he visited Lady Jane Grey, at her father's house at Broadgate in Leicestershire. He found her reading the *Phædo* of Plato in Greek; and he discovered such an uncommon share of learning and good sense in her conversation, that he mentions her in his works, as the wonder of her sex.

Mr. Ascham attended the ambassador to Germany, and remained with him three years.

While he was there employed, his friends at home procured him the post of Latin secretary to the king; but before he could return to take possession of his new dignity, he received the melancholy news of the death of his royal master, by which fatal event he not only lost his place and his pension, but seemed to have lost every prospect of future preferment. However, contrary to his expectations, being protected by Lord Paget, he was raised to the same post under Queen Mary; and such was his diligence and dispatch, that it is said, he composed and transcribed, in three days, no less than forty-seven Latin letters to princes and other foreigners of distinction, particularly to the cardinals, on the subject of electing Cardinal Pole to the Papal chair. He was greatly carested by the cardinal on account of his literary talents; and though Pole was himself particularly

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eminent



eminent for his skill in Latin, he yet thought so highly of Ascham's style, that he employed him to translate into Latin the speech which he made to the parliament when he reconciled the kingdom to the see of Rome; and our author's translation was sent to Rome, where it was greatly admired, for the purity of the diction.

Upon the accession of Elizabeth, his royal pupil, he was sent for to court, continued in his station of Latin secretary, and allowed the same salary as in the late reign, which was only twenty pounds *per annum*; and though he was admitted to a degree of familiarity with the Queen, sometimes assisting her in her private studies, and at others partaking of her diversions, she never made any addition to his fortune, except a prebend in the cathedral of York, which was bestowed on him in 1559.

It is related by his biographers, that, being one day in company with persons of distinction, there happened to be high disputes about the different modes of education, which gave rise to his celebrated treatise, intituled, "The School-master," which he undertook at the request of Sir Richard Sackville; but it was not published till after his death.

He died on the 30th of Dec. 1568, and was interred in St. Sepulchre's church, London.

FRANCIS

## FRANCIS BACON, LORD VERULAM.

**F**RANCIS BACON has ever been distinguished as one of the greatest men this or any other country ever produced. His various abilities and amiable character rendered him worthy of the admiration of his contemporaries, and his immortal works are a valuable legacy to his country.

He was born at York-house, in the Strand, on the 22d of January, 1561; and his extraordinary genius manifested itself so early, that Queen Elizabeth herself, while he was but a boy, took a particular delight in trying him with questions; and was wont to call him in mirth, "her young lord-keeper." Among other smart replies, her Majesty having one day asked him how old he was, he answered readily, "Just two years younger than your Majesty's happy reign."

His proficiency in learning was so rapid, that in the twelfth year of his age he was entered a student of Trinity college, Cambridge; and went through all his courses there by the time he was sixteen; when his father sent him to Paris, and recommended him to Sir Amias Pawlet, then the Queen's ambassador in France; whose esteem and confidence he so entirely gained,

gained, that he was soon after entrusted by him with a secret commission to the Queen, which he executed to the great satisfaction of her Majesty and the ambassador, and then returned to France to finish his travels.

Whilst abroad he did not spend his time, as our young gentlemen usually do, in learning the vices and follies of foreigners, but in studying their constitution of government, their manners and customs, and the characters and views of their princes and ministers; and, in the nineteenth year of his age, he wrote a paper of observations on the then general state of Europe, which is still extant among his works.

On the death of his father, we find that he entered himself of Gray's Inn, and soon became so eminent in that profession, that, at the age of twenty-eight, he was appointed by Queen Elizabeth her learned counsel extraordinary.

His anxiety, on account of his scanty circumstances, being increased by a failure of his expectation of preferment at court, had a very bad effect upon his constitution, which was not naturally robust, and had been greatly impaired by his close application to his studies by night.

In 1607 we find him appointed solicitor-general. Sir Francis Bacon, from the date of his entering upon this office,  
may



may be considered as a professed courtier, and as a servant strongly attached to his master, whose views he constantly promoted, contrary to his better judgment, and to that spirit of true patriotism, which his country had a right to see exerted, by a man of his talents, in the cause of civil liberty.

In 1611 he was appointed a judge of the Marshalsea Court, in conjunction with Sir Thomas Vavasor; and in 1613, upon the promotion of Sir Henry Hobart to be chief-justice of the Common Pleas, Sir Francis Bacon succeeded him in the office of attorney-general.

To his great honour, it may be remarked, while he held this office, he exerted all his efforts to suppress the vile custom of duelling. And, upon an information exhibited in the star-chamber against Priest and Wright, he delivered so excellent a charge to the court against duels, that the lords of the council, contrary to their usual practice, ordered it to be printed and published, with the decree of the court on the cause.

In 1618 he was made lord high chancellor; and a peerage, by the title of baron of Verulam, by which title he is chiefly distinguished in the learned world; for which reason we prefer it to the more honourable one of viscount St. Alban's, to which he was advanced in 1620.

It appears evident, that philosophy was his ruling passion; for, amidst all the variety and intricacy of the business in which he was necessarily involved as a lawyer and a statesman, he found time to compose and to publish, in 1620, the best-finished and most important, though the least read, of all his philosophical tracts, the *Novum Organum Scientiarum*. This piece is calculated to promote a more perfect method of exercising our rational faculties, than that before taught in the schools, by exercising the human mind in contemplations on the works of nature and art, and employing it on nobler subjects than abstruse scholastic speculations, which serve only to involve learned men in frivolous controversies and idle disputations.

Lord Verulam had now attained the full gratification of his wishes. He had triumphed over his competitors at court, and was the subject of general admiration in the learned world: but, alas! how short-lived do we often find human greatness! The very next year, King James was forced to call a parliament; and, as the nation was highly dissatisfied with the conduct both of Buckingham and the chancellor, the house of commons set on foot a strict scrutiny into their conduct; in consequence of which he was impeached by the house of commons of corrupt practices,

practices, in causes depending before him, as chief judge in equity; so entirely had he lost that great character, which, but seven years before, he had among the commons, when he was attorney-general. We afterwards find, upon his own confession, he was sentenced to pay a fine of forty thousand pounds; to be imprisoned in the Tower during the king's pleasure; to be for ever incapable of any office, place, or employment, in the commonwealth; and never to sit again in parliament, or come within the verge of the court.

We cannot but stop here to reflect a moment, that a man of such extensive knowledge as Lord Verulam, could degrade his birth, or sully his virtues, by practices so criminal, and so injurious to society; and we trust, for the honour of human nature, we shall not find any similar instance of such depravity, that always works its own ruin.

The king soon released him from the Tower, made a grant of his fine to some trustees for his benefit, and settled upon him a pension of one thousand eight hundred pounds a year, out of the broad seal and alienation offices. He likewise, in a very short time, granted him a full and entire pardon of his whole sentence; but he did not live long to enjoy these favours; for, as he was making some experiments near Highgate, he was suddenly taken ill, and,



being carried to the Earl of Arundel's house there, he expired, after a week's illness, on the 9th of April, 1626.

Various are the characters given by different writers of this celebrated man. By some, his faults are extenuated; and by others, highly aggravated. But all acknowledge, that his great and extraordinary abilities rendered him one of the greatest ornaments of his age and country.

It is well for learning and society that the labours of this great man have been preserved entire. All his works have considerable merit, particularly his *Essays on "Counsels Civil and Moral," "On the Proficiency of Learning, Divine and Human,"* and his critical tract, "*On the Wisdom of the Ancients.*" A splendid edition of all his works has been published by Dr. Birch, in five volumes quarto.

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### WILLIAM BECKFORD.

**W**HEN men distinguish themselves by noble and generous acts, we cannot too much admire or reverence their characters. Hence too, we may hope, that by preserving their memoirs, we leave the best legacy we can to individuals and society.

William

William Beckford was a patriotic chief magistrate of the city of London, who died in that office, with which he had been for the second time invested, June 21, 1770, aged 65. With an unshaken intrepidity he opposed the wicked machinations of a profligate ministry. He showed himself the steadfast friend of his king and country, and was the only man of his time who with firmness and humility durst tell a king upon his throne (surrounded by his flatterers) the plain and honest truth, whereby he vindicated the loyalty, while he evinced the independent spirit of the city of London. Convinced that our liberties belong to posterity as well as to ourselves, he resolved that the share committed to his trust should not expire in his hands. As a citizen, he was eminently decorated with the virtues of humanity and affability; as a senator (member for London), watchful over the rights of the people; and as a magistrate, unremittingly active in seeing those rights legally executed. That his character might ever be held in the most honourable and grateful remembrance, the corporation erected his statue in their Guildhall, and recorded in the inscription the magnanimous speech which he addressed to the king, in vindication of the people's right to remonstrate to the throne. Most public personages have had some shades in their characters, which

the finger of envy or malice has occasionally marked; but in whatever point of view alderman Beckford is considered, he rises to our astonishment the perfect finished character, worthy the imitation of honourable citizens, as it is only from such rare instances of true patriotism that, as a free people, we have obtained that we enjoy; and while the example should teach us how to regard our rights and liberties, may it also inspire us with virtue and resolution sufficient to assert them, when it may be necessary.



### SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE.

**T**HIS celebrated and learned judge was born on the 10th of July, 1723, in Cheapside. Mr. Charles Blackstone, a silkman, and citizen and bowyer of London, his father, died some months before his birth, and his mother before he was twelve years old. The care, therefore, of his education and fortune was kindly undertaken by his maternal uncle, Mr. Thomas Bigg, a surgeon in London. When he was about seven years old, he was put to school at the Charter-house, and in 1735 was admitted upon the foundation there.



there. In this seminary he applied himself to every branch of youthful education, with the same assiduity which accompanied his studies through life. His talents and industry rendered him the favourite of his masters, who encouraged and assisted him with the utmost attention; so that at the age of fifteen he was at the head of the school, and, although so young, was thought well qualified to be removed to the university. He was accordingly entered a commoner of Pembroke college, in Oxford, on the 30th of November, 1738.

At the university he prosecuted his studies with unremitting ardour; and although the classics, and particularly the Greek and Roman poets, were his favourites, they did not entirely engross his attention. Logic, mathematics, and the other sciences, were not neglected. From the first of these he laid the foundation of that close method of reasoning for which he was so remarkable.

Having determined on his future plan of life, and made choice of the law for his profession, he was entered in the Middle Temple on the 20th of November, 1741.

On quitting those scenes of his early youth, which affection had endeared to him, he composed the following verses, which he entitled "The Lawyer's Fare-

well to his Muse," which prove him to be no mean poet :

" As by some tyrant's stern command,  
A wretch forfakes his native land,  
In foreign climes condemn'd to roam  
An endless exile from his home ;  
Pensive he treads the destin'd way,  
And dreads to go, nor dares to stay ;  
Till on some neighb'ring mountain's brow  
He stops, and turns his eyes below ;  
There, melting at the well-known view,  
Drops a last tear, and bids adieu :  
So I, thus doom'd from thee to part,  
Gay queen of Fancy and of Art,  
Reluctant move, with doubtful mind,  
Oft stop, and often look behind.

" Companion of my tender age,  
Serenely gay, and sweetly sage,  
How blithsome were we wont to rove,  
By verdant hill or shady grove,  
Where fervent bees, with humming voice,  
Around the honey'd oak rejoice,  
And aged elms with awful bend,  
In long cathedral walks extend !  
Lull'd by the lapse of gliding floods,  
Cheer'd by the warbling of the woods,  
How blest my days, my thoughts how free,  
In sweet society with thee !  
Then all was joyous, all was young,  
And years unheeded roll'd along :  
But now the pleasing dream is o'er,  
These scenes must charm me now no more :  
Lost to the field, and torn from you,——  
Farewell !——a long, a last adieu."

In November, 1743, he was elected into the society of All Souls college ; and on the 12th of June, 1745, commenced bachelor of civil law. In the latter he applied

applied himself closely to his profession, both in the Hall, and in his private studies; and on the 28th of November, 1746, he was called to the bar.

In 1750, he commenced doctor of civil law, and thereby became a member of the convocation, which enabled him to extend his views beyond the narrow circle of his own society, to the general benefit of the university at large.

It is singular, but it may be justly remarked, that a man who has done so much for the general benefit of society, as we find he has by his celebrated "Commentaries or Lectures on the Laws of England," which will stand a living monument of his fame, should but have made his way slowly at the bar, or acquired but little notice, or little practice. Therefore, after having attended the courts in Westminster-hall for seven years, finding the profits of his profession very inadequate to the expense, in the summer of 1753 he determined to retire to his fellowship and an academical life, still continuing the practice of his profession as a provincial counsel. He had previously planned, what he now began to execute, his lectures before noticed, and in the ensuing Michaelmas term he entered on his new province of reading these lectures; which, even at their commencement, were attended by a very crowded class of young men of the first families, characters, and hopes. In



In 1758 he was elected Vinerian professor of common law in the university of Oxford; and on the 25th of October, that year, read his first introductory lecture. He observed in that lecture, that a knowledge of the laws and constitution of our country is a "species of knowledge, in which the gentlemen of England have been more remarkably deficient than those of all Europe besides."

In one of his valuable lectures we find the following observation:

"Without detracting therefore from the real merit which abounds in the imperial law, I hope I may have leave to assert, that if an Englishman must be ignorant of either the one or the other, he had better be a stranger to the Roman than the English institutions. For I think it an undeniable position, that a competent knowledge of the laws of that society in which we live, is the proper accomplishment of every gentleman and scholar; an highly useful, I had almost said essential, part of liberal and polite education. And in this I am warranted by the example of ancient Rome; where, as Cicero informs us, the very boys were obliged to learn the twelve tables by heart, as a *carmen necessarium*, or indispensable lesson, to imprint on their tender minds an early knowledge of the laws and constitutions of their country."

Dr. Blackstone having established such a reputation by his lectures, as he justly thought might entitle him to some particular notice at the bar, in 1759 he bought chambers in the Temple, and resumed his attendance at Westminster-hall, still continuing to pass some part of the year at Oxford, and to read his lectures there. The same year he published a new edition of the Great Charter, and Charter of the Forest. In 1761 he was elected member of the House of Commons for Hindon, in Wiltshire.

In 1763 he was appointed solicitor-general to the Queen; and was chosen about the same time a bencher of the Middle Temple. In 1765 he published in 4to, the first volume of his "Commentaries on the Laws of England;" and in the course of the four succeeding years the other three volumes, which completed a work by which he obtained great reputation.

Dr. Priestley has observed of him, that "every Englishman is under obligation to him, for the pains he has taken to render the laws of his country intelligible; and the philosopher will thank him for rendering the study of them easy and engaging."

About 1770 he was made judge of the Common Pleas; but was no eloquent speaker, from which deficiency he did not make a distinguished figure on the bench.

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He died February, 1780, and was buried at St. Peter's, at Wallingford, Berks.

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### SIR THOMAS BODLEY.

WHILST a repository of learning equal to the *Bodleian Library*, calls for a nation's gratitude, its noble founder, Sir Thomas Bodley, will ever be regarded by the scholar, and even the state itself. He was the son of an eminent merchant at Exeter, who having early embraced the reformed religion, and being menaced with persecution on that account, fled with his son to Geneva, and remained there during the turbulent reign of Queen Mary.

Upon the accession of Queen Elizabeth, they returned home, with the other Protestant exiles; and young Bodley, having made a considerable progress at Geneva in divinity and the learned languages, was sent by his father to Magdalen college, Oxford. In 1563 he took his degree of master of arts; in 1565 he obtained a fellowship in Merton college; in 1569 he was elected one of the proctors of the university; and, for a considerable time, during a vacancy, he supplied the place of university orator. His friends now having  
in



in view some preferment for him about the court, in 1576 he went abroad to make the tour of Europe, and perfect himself in the modern languages. He continued about four years on the continent, and, upon his return, he applied himself to the study of history and politics to qualify himself for public employments; and he was very soon called upon to exert his talents in stations of great dignity and importance. From gentleman-usher to Queen Elizabeth, he rose to be her Majesty's ambassador to the courts of Denmark and France; and her representative in the council of state of the United Provinces in 1588; when he managed the queen's affair so much to the satisfaction of the ministry at home, that he was continued in this high office till 1597, when all the public negotiations with the states being successfully terminated, he was recalled. But, instead of meeting with that reward for his eminent services he had a right to expect, he found his own interest declining with that of his patron the Earl of Essex, and, in a fit of disgust, he retired from court, and all public business; and, though afterwards solicited, he never would accept of any new office under the government; but King James, on his accession, conferred on him the honour of knighthood.

To

To this retirement from the bustle of public life, the university of Oxford most probably stands indebted for the Bodleian library, justly esteemed one of the noblest in the world. The first step Sir Thomas Bodley took in this affair, was to write a letter to Dr. Ravis, vice-chancellor of the university, offering to rebuild the decayed fabric of the public library, to improve and augment the scanty collection of books contained in it; and to vest an annual income in the hands of the heads of the university, for the purchase of books, and for the salaries of such officers as they should think it necessary to appoint. A suitable answer being returned, and this generous offer gratefully accepted, Sir Thomas Bodley immediately ordered the old building to be pulled down, and a new one erected at his own expense; which being completed in about two years, he added to the old a new collection of the most valuable books then extant, which he had ordered to be purchased in foreign countries; and having thus set the example, the nobility, the bishops, and several private gentlemen, made such considerable benefactions in books, that the room was not large enough to contain them. Upon which, Sir Thomas offered to make considerable additions to the building; and on the 19th of July, 1610, he laid the first stone of the new foundation, being accompanied by the vice-

vice-chancellor, doctors, masters of arts, &c. and a speech was made on the occasion. Sir Thomas Bodley did not live to see this additional building completed; but he had the satisfaction to know that it was intended, as soon as that was finished, to enlarge the plan of the whole edifice, and in the end to form a regular quadrangle; and as he knew his own fortune was inadequate to this great work, he made use of his interest with several persons of rank and fortune, and engaged them to make large presents to the university to forward this undertaking, to which he bequeathed his whole estate. He likewise drew up some excellent statutes for the regulation of the library, which seems to have been the last act of his life. He died on the 28th of January, 1612, and was buried in the chapel of Merton college, where a handsome monument was erected to his memory; and a statue was likewise put in the library at the expense of the Earl of Dorset, when chancellor of the university.

An annual speech, in praise of Sir Thomas Bodley, is still made at Oxford, on the 8th of November, at which time the visitation of the library is usually made.

WILLIAM



## WILLIAM CAMDEN.

SO long as English history and antiquities claim a place in the libraries of the learned, the character of William Camden will ever be revered. His indefatigable labour, and love of this study, have rendered his name famous, both to Englishmen and others. Our author was the son of Sampson Camden, of Litchfield, who settled in London, where he was born in 1551. The rudiments of education he received at Christ's hospital; but at twelve years of age, having been greatly injured in his health by the plague, he was sent to Islington for the benefit of the air, where he remained for some time in so languid a condition, that he was unable to pursue his studies. But upon his recovery, he went to St. Paul's school, till he was fifteen years of age, and was then sent to Oxford, and admitted a servitor in Magdalen college: here he finished his classical learning in the school belonging to the college, under the care of Dr. Thomas Cooper. Being disappointed of a demy's place in this college, he removed to Broadgate hall, now Pembroke college, and continued his academical studies upwards of two years, under that able preceptor Dr. Thomas Thornton, who, entertaining

tertaining sentiments of esteem and friendship for young Camden, became his first patron.

The number of Camden's friends soon increased, by whose persuasion he stood candidate for a fellowship in All Souls college; but the influence of the Popish party prevailing in that society, the election was carried against him. In 1570 he met with a more severe mortification, being refused the degree of bachelor of arts; but no reason is assigned for this extraordinary circumstance.

The antiquities of his own country were objects of his laudable researches; and both before and after he left the university, he made frequent excursions to the different counties in England, to procure informations and materials towards forming those collections, from which he afterwards composed his celebrated work, intitled, "Britannia."

In 1571 he accepted a pressing invitation from two worthy divines, Dr. Gabriel Goodman, dean of Westminster, and Dr. Godfrey Goodman, his brother, to settle near them in Westminster; and they undertook to supply him with books, and every accommodation of life, at their expense, till he should meet with preferment suitable to his merit. In 1573 he went to Oxford, and staid there near two years: during which time he is supposed to have  
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taken his degree of bachelor of arts; and in 1575, by the interest of his friend the dean, he was appointed second master of Westminster school; in which station he greatly distinguished himself, and strengthened his connexions in life. He could now only devote his leisure hours to his favourite study, yet he had already made such a progress in it, that his reputation as an antiquary daily increased, and procured him the esteem and friendship of men of the first eminence in the learned world, both at home and abroad.

In compliance with the solicitations of respectable friends, with unwearied assiduity and close application, he collated every historical or curious anecdote to be found, dispersed in the works of the ancients, respecting the British isles. With the same attention he examined all the histories of Britain then extant in our language, or written in Latin by our countrymen. He likewise purchased several valuable manuscripts, and he searched all old records in the public offices. In fine, he visited all the repositories of learning in the kingdom, for information concerning the ancient history of his country; and he inspected on the spot every monument of antiquity which could serve to illustrate his work.

At length, after ten years of indefatigable industry, the first edition of his  
"Britannia,"



"Britannia," in Latin, appeared in 1586, and in one volume 8vo. The title in English is, "Britain, or a Chorographical Description of the flourishing Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the adjacent Islands, from the most remote Antiquity."

This elaborate work was dedicated to Lord Burleigh, and the author gratefully acknowledges the kind patronage of that celebrated statesman. Camden's reputation was now raised so high, that he was styled by some foreign writers the Varro, by others the Strabo and Pausanias of Britain; and these encomiums had a happy effect on the generous mind of our author, inciting him to add every improvement to his performance of which the subject would admit.

We find he next proceeded to Wales, in company with the learned Dr. Godwin, afterwards bishop of Hereford; by whose assistance he made many valuable discoveries of the antiquities of this country, and inserted them in the fourth edition of his "Britannia," which was published in 4to, in the course of the year 1594.

Dr. Graunt, the head master of Westminster school, dying in 1592, Camden was appointed to succeed him.

Our learned antiquary's next performance was a Greek grammar, for the use of Westminster school, which was the only grammar

grammar in use in all the public schools for above a century after his death.

He afterwards published "A Description of all the Monuments of the Kings, Queens, Nobles, and others in Westminster Abbey, with their Inscriptions; together with an historical Account of the Foundation of that Church."

In 1605 he published "Remains of a greater Work concerning Britain, the Inhabitants thereof, their Languages, Names, Surnames, Emprefes, wise Speeches, Poesies, and Epitaphs." This curious piece chiefly relates to the habits, manners, and customs of the ancient Britons and Saxons.

In 1606 we find Mr. Camden, for the first time, employed in the service of a royal patron, James I. to draw up a manifesto respecting the Popish plot, in Latin, in order to be sent abroad, and dispersed by the British ministers at foreign courts so as to be circulated to all parts of Europe; our historian having at this time the reputation of being the most elegant and correct Latin writer in England.

This piece was published in 1607, and does great honour to Camden, not only with respect to the style, but to the masterly manner in which he has treated the subject of the memorial.

From this time to the year 1612, we have no account of this great man's literary labours, nor any anecdote concerning him,  
save

save only he was obliged to visit Oxford on a mournful occasion, to show the last solemn token of respect to the manes of his deceased friend Sir Thomas Bodley.

Camden, being now grown old and infirm, resolved to devote part of the fortune he had acquired to the encouragement of that branch of literature for which he himself was so eminent. In this view, in 1622, he founded a professorship of history in the university of Oxford, and settled a salary of 140*l.* per annum on the professor. It seemed as if the business of his life had ended with this institution; for, on the 18th of August, 1623, as he was sitting in his chair in his study, he suddenly lost the use of his hands and feet, and fell down upon the floor. He received no apparent hurt from this accident, and he even recovered the use of his limbs; but the disorder terminated in a fever, with which he languished till the 9th of November, when he died at his house at Chislehurst, in Kent.

His remains were deposited in Westminster Abbey, in the south aisle. A handsome monument was likewise erected to his memory.

Besides the works already mentioned, a large collection of his Latin letters, with some small tracts, have been published by Hearne, from the collections of Dr. Smith.

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Of



Of his capital performance, the "Britannia," an English translation was published, in folio, by Dr. Philemon Holland, in 1611; and which was reprinted, with alterations, 1636. A much better translation of the "Britannia," with additions, was published in 1695, in folio, by Edmund Gibson: and, lastly, by Mr. Gough, with additions and improvements, in three volumes folio.

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### SIR EDWARD COKE.

**T**HIS once celebrated lawyer was son to Robert Coke, Esq. of Mileham, in Norfolk. At ten years of age, he was sent to the free-school at Norwich; and from thence removed to Trinity college, in Cambridge. He remained in the university about four years, and went from thence to Clifford's Inn, in London; and, the year after, was entered a student of the Inner Temple. He was called to the bar at six years standing, which in that age was held very extraordinary. He has himself informed us, that the first cause he moved in the King's-bench was in Trinity term, 1578; when he was counsel for Mr. Edward Denny, in an action of *scandalum*

*scandalum magnatum*, brought against him by Henry Lord Cromwell. This was a remarkable cause, an account of which may be found in our author's Reports.

About this time he was appointed reader of Lyon's Inn, in which office he continued three years; and his learned lectures were much resorted to, and applauded. His reputation increased very fast, and he came into great practice.

A short period after, the cities of Coventry and Norwich chose him their recorder; and he was engaged in all the great causes in Westminster Hall. He was also in high credit with the Lord-treasurer Burleigh, and was frequently consulted in the Queen's affairs. His large estate, and his great credit in his country, as well as at court, recommended him to the freeholders of his county, by whom he was chosen knight of the shire; and in the parliament held in the 35th of Elizabeth, he was chosen speaker of the house of commons, being at that time the Queen's solicitor, which was bestowed upon him in 1592; and, soon after, he was appointed attorney-general.

The affair of most importance, in which as attorney-general he had a share in the reign of Elizabeth, was the prosecution of the Earl of Essex, against whom he pleaded with great acrimony. In May, 1603, he was knighted by King James; and in

November the same year, he managed the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh, at Winchester. He inveighed against that great and brave man with such bitterness and cruelty, and even scurrility of language, as greatly lessened him in the general opinion of the world.

On the 27th of June, the same year, he was appointed lord-chief-justice of the Common-pleas; on the 25th of October, 1613, made lord-chief-justice of the King's-bench; and on the 4th of November was sworn of his Majesty's privy council.

Sir Edward Coke's profound skill in the common law enabled him to discharge the duties of his important station with eminent ability. On the bench he was above corruption; and had this saying frequently in his mouth, that a judge should neither give nor take a bribe.

After so sudden and rapid a rise into favour, it may be singular to remark, that a man of Sir Edward Coke's integrity and uprightness should lose the favour of his prince; but so it happened, though the pretexts for his removal were so frivolous, that he suffered no disgrace from it in the eyes of the people; and if he had shown that noble fortitude and steadiness upon the occasion, which the public had a right to expect from a man of his learning and integrity, he might have ranked in the list  
of



of suffering patriots, whose virtues could not be endured in the palaces of weak despotic princes.

We find in 1621 the King called a parliament, of which Sir Edward Coke was chosen a member; and he now distinguished himself by a noble exertion of his great talents, and of that influence which his age and experience gave him in the house of commons, in support of the rights and privileges of parliament, against the usurped ministerial power of the crown. He spoke with great warmth against many of the court-measures. He observed, that the rights and privileges of parliament were a part of the constitution, subsisting independently of the royal prerogative; that they were, in fact, the rights of the subject; and that no proclamation could be of any force against an act of parliament.

In consequence of this spirited behaviour, the Commons began to take the measures of administration into serious consideration, which exceedingly alarmed the King, who, with his usual jealousy concerning his prerogative, took great pains to prevent any impressions that might be made on the people without doors, by the behaviour of Sir Edward and others in parliament.

The nation being then in a flame, was justly incensed against King James, whose proceedings against this parliament laid

the foundation of his son's misfortunes; and he may be said to have plunged the dagger into the bosom of Charles, by the desperate act of tearing out the protestation from the journals of the house of commons. For the people now knew what they had to expect from the race of Stuarts, whom they had exalted to the throne of England.

On the death of James, he lived to see many struggles between King Charles I. and his parliament, and boldly stepped forward the champion of the rights and liberties of the people, against the measures of that unfortunate prince.

Sir Edward Coke was esteemed, in his practice at the bar and on the bench, to be one of the ablest lawyers England ever produced, and he valued himself upon deriving his fortune, his reputation, and his preferments, not from solicitations, bribery, or adulation, but from his profound knowledge in the law. And he was so greatly honoured and beloved by the gentlemen of the profession, that, when he was prosecuted by the court in the reign of James I. Sir John Walter, though attorney-general to Charles Prince of Wales, and therefore in a manner obliged to it officially, refused to plead against him, and laid the brief aside, which had been sent to him by the court, making use of this remarkable sentence upon the occasion:

tion: "Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, whenever I open it against Sir Edward Coke." His reputation as a law-writer is so firmly established in our courts, that his works are considered as undeniable authorities, the principal of which are his Reports, in eleven parts; the 12th and 13th were published after his death: A Book of Entries; or, Approved Precedents of Courts: and, The Institutes of the Laws of England, in four parts. This latter and most valuable work has been lately republished, with notes and commentaries, by Mr. Hargrave, in three volumes octavo.

He died in 1634, at Stoke Poggis, Bucks.

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### SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.

**T**HIS celebrated navigator, and brave officer, was the son of Edmund Drake, a mariner, and was born at a village near Tavistock, in Devonshire, in the year 1545. He was the eldest of twelve children, and the father being distressed by so large a family, Captain Hawkins, his mother's relation, kindly took him under his patronage, and gave him an education suitable to the sea-service. Through the interest of his patron, at the age of eighteen,



he was made purser of a ship trading to the Bay of Biscay. At twenty, he made a voyage to Guinea; at the age of twenty-two, he was appointed captain of the *Judith*; and, in that capacity, he was in the harbour of St. John de Ulloa, in the Gulf of Mexico, where he behaved very gallantly in the glorious action under Sir John Hawkins; and returned with him to England with a rising reputation.

Soon after this, he conceived a design of making reprisals on the King of Spain, and in 1570 made his first voyage with two ships, the *Dragon* and the *Swan*; and the next year in the *Swan* alone: from which last expedition he returned safe, if not rich.

In 1575 he fitted out three frigates at his own expense. He sailed with them to Ireland, where, in the capacity of a volunteer, under Walter Earl of Essex, he performed many gallant exploits, and was so highly in favour with the Earl, that he recommended him to Sir Christopher Hatton, vice-chamberlain to the Queen, in a letter written but a short time before his death, which served him as an introduction to her Majesty in 1576, who from this time took him under her own immediate protection. Thus countenanced at court, his fellow-citizens were still more animated to engage in any adventure he should project, and he was enabled to undertake

undertake that grand expedition which will immortalize his name. The first thing he proposed was a voyage into the South-Seas, through the Streights of Magellan, hitherto unattempted by any Englishman. He ardently prayed to God that he might sail an English ship in them; which now he found an opportunity of attempting.

The small fleet with which he sailed on this extraordinary enterprise, consisted of the following ships: viz. the Pelican, of 100 tons, commanded by himself; the Elizabeth, the Marygold, the Swan, a fly-boat, and the Christopher, a pinnace. In this fleet the whole number of hands embarked amounted to no more than 164 able men, with all necessary provisions for so long and dangerous a voyage; the intent of which was, however, not publicly declared, but given out to be for Alexandria, though it was generally suspected, and many knew, that it was designed for America.

On the 15th of November, 1577, Captain Drake sailed from Plymouth. On the 25th of the same month he fell in with the coast of Barbary, and on the 29th, with Cape de Verd; and on the 13th of March he passed the line; the 5th of April he made the coast of Brazil, and entered the River de la Plata, where he missed the Swan and the pinnace; but meeting them again, and taking out all their hands and the provisions they had on board, he

turned them adrift. On the 20th of May he entered the port of St. Julian, to take in provisions.

After he had continued about two months in Port St. Julian, lying within one degree of the Streights of Magellan, to make the necessary preparations for passing the Streights with safety, on a sudden, having carried the principal persons engaged in the service to a desert island lying in the bay, he called a court-martial, where he opened his commission; by which the Queen granted him the power of life and death, which was delivered to him with this remarkable expression from her own mouth: "We do account that he, Drake, who strikes at thee, does strike at us."

He left St. Julian on the 17th of August; on the 20th he entered the Streights of Magellan, and after a difficult navigation he passed them on the 25th of September, and found himself in the great South-Sea. Here he met with such tempestuous weather, that he was forced back to the westward near 100 leagues, and the Marygold was lost. Near the 57th degree of south latitude, he entered a bay, where he found a naked people, ranging from one island to another in canoes, in search of provisions. Sailing northward from thence, on the 3d of October he found three islands, in one of which was an extraordinary plenty of birds. On the 8th



8th he lost sight of the Elizabeth, who returned through the Streights, and arrived safe in England, on the 2d of June, 1579, being the first ship that ever made that passage homewards.

Captain Drake had now only his own ship, which he had new-named the Hind, with which he arrived at Macao on the 25th of November, 1578; and from thence sailing along the coasts of Chili and Peru, he greatly annoyed the Spaniards, taking and destroying several ships. He boldly attempted to find a passage by North America, sailing to the latitude of 42 degrees; but then meeting with severe cold, and open shores covered with snow, he returned back to 38 degrees of latitude, and there put into a harbour in the north part of California, where he was kindly received by the Indian inhabitants, who were so highly pleased with him, that they offered to make him their king.

To this country Drake gave the name of New Albion; and erecting a stone pillar, he placed an inscription thereon, with the name, style, and titles of Queen Elizabeth, denoting his having taken possession of the country for his sovereign; to which were added his own name, and the date of this transaction.

On the 13th of October, 1597, Drake fell in with certain islands, inhabited by the most barbarous people he had met with in all his voyage. On the 4th of

November he had sight of the Moluccas; and, coming to the island of Ternate, was extremely well received by the king of the place, who seems to have been a wise and polite prince. Then touching at Java, where he received great civilities from one of the kings of the island, he continued his course for the Cape of Good Hope, and from thence to Rio Grande, in Negroland; where taking in water, he set sail for England, and arrived safe at Plymouth, on the 25th of September, 1580; having sailed round the globe, in less than three years, to the great admiration of the people of those times.

Drake's success in this voyage, and the immense treasure he brought home with him, became the general topic of conversation. On the 4th of April, her Majesty going to Deptford, went on board Drake's ship, where, after dinner, she conferred the honour of knighthood on him, and declared her absolute approbation of all he had done. She also gave directions for the preservation of his ship, that it might remain a monument in honour of himself and his country. But this famous vessel, which for many years had been viewed with admiration at Deptford, being decayed, was at length broken up, and a chair made out of the planks was presented, by John Davies, Esq. to the university of Oxford, where it is still preserved.

In the year 1585, Sir Francis, now Admiral Drake, was sent on an expedition against the Spanish West India settlements, with a fleet of twenty-one sail.

Two years after, he proceeded to Lisbon with a fleet of thirty sail; and, receiving intelligence of a considerable fleet assembled in the bay of Cadiz, intended to make part of the Spanish armada, he bravely entered that port, and burnt upwards of ten thousand tons of shipping.

The general applause bestowed on him, when he returned from this glorious expedition, was heightened into grateful admiration, when it was observed, what a laudable use he made of the wealth he had acquired from the enemies of his country.

In the year 1588 he was appointed vice-admiral.

He died near the place where he first laid the foundation of his fame and fortune. Such was the end of this great man. His death was lamented by the whole nation, but more especially by those of his native place, who had great reason to love him from the circumstances of his private life, as well as to esteem him in his public character.

THOMAS



## THOMAS FIRMIN.

PERHAPS the history of the whole English nation does not contain a single character equally respectable, in point of active benevolence, with that of Thomas Firmin, a plain tradesman of London. He was born in 1632, and was, in the most emphatic sense of the phrase, RICH IN GOOD WORKS. When only an apprentice, he acquired the esteem of all who knew him, by his fidelity, his industry, and his amiable manners. When he began to trade for himself, his fortune amounted only to about one hundred pounds. But his industry, activity, and excellence of character, enabled him, by degrees, to acquire a considerable fortune, which he employed in acts of the most extensive benevolence and humanity. When not engaged in the necessary business of his trade, which he carried on to the end of his life, he was almost constantly employed in works of kindness and beneficence, and which were not confined by him to any sect, to any party, or to any country. In the fire of London the house of Firmin was consumed, by which his fortune was impaired; but the ardour of his benevolence continued unabated. Not satisfied with those acts of beneficence which his own fortune

fortune would enable him to perform, he exerted himself to excite others to concur with, and to assist him, in the prosecution of his benevolent designs; and as the well-known excellence of his character induced many persons of opulence to comply with his applications of this kind, he was thereby enabled to become more extensively useful than would otherwise have been possible. He attended to the most minute circumstances respecting the distresses of the poor, and their various wants. He relieved them to the utmost extent of his ability; he entered into an investigation of their different situations, and he assisted them by his counsel, as well as by his purse. *He was a father to the poor, and to them who had none to help them.* He redeemed many poor debtors out of prison; and many of those who were imprisoned for sums so large, that he could not procure their release, he endeavoured to provide assistance and accommodation for during their confinement. Great numbers of boys were placed out as apprentices, to various trades, at his expense; and, if they manifested diligence and honesty, he afterwards endeavoured to bring them forward in the world, and to promote their interest. He established manufactories, with a sole view to the benefit of the poor, for furnishing those with employment and subsistence who

who were in want of them, and for training them up in habits of virtuous industry. It was said of him, by one who personally knew him, that "he was nimble above most men, in apprehension, in speech, in judgment, in resolution, and in action;" and he said of himself, that assisting, relieving, and performing kind offices to the poor, was to him "such a pleasure, as magnificent buildings, pleasant walks, well-cultivated orchards and gardens, the jollity of music and wine, or study, are to others."

He was a firm believer in Christianity, and he practised the virtues which it inculcates; but, in the opinion of some, he was deficient in point of orthodoxy; at which Queen Mary, to whom the fame of his benevolence had reached, expressed her concern.

It is said of him, if any man was unjustly or illegally oppressed, he was ready to defend him as far as he was able.

He was one of the governors of St. Thomas's hospital, in Southwark, and was extremely active in his endeavours to promote the interests of that charitable institution. He was also one of the governors of Christ's hospital, in London, to which he was a great benefactor, and over which he was a constant superintendant. He died in 1697; and, at his own desire, was buried in the cloisters of that hospital; and



and in an inscription placed on the wall, near his grave, it is observed, that he was "wonderfully zealous in every good work, *beyond the example of any in our age.*"



## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

IN the life of Benjamin Franklin we have a noble example of what perseverance and industry may attain. Undistinguished by birth, he burst through the barrier of obscurity, and became the politician, the philosopher, and the friend of human kind.

Our worthy printer was born at Boston, in America, 1706, was placed at a very early age under one of his brothers, who was a printer, where he made a rapid progress in this art, so useful to mankind, and contracted an attachment for the press, which continued as long as he lived. Scarcely emerged from infancy, Franklin was a philosopher, without being conscious of it, and by the continual exercise of his genius, prepared himself for those great discoveries which in science have since associated his name with that of Newton, and for those political reflections which have placed him by the side of a Solon  
and

and a Lycurgus. Soon after his removal from Boston to Philadelphia, Franklin, in concert with some other young men, established a small club, where every member, after his work was over, and on holidays, brought his stock of ideas, which were submitted to discussion. This society, of which the young printer was the soul, has been the source of every useful establishment in that province, calculated to promote the progress of science, the mechanical arts, and particularly the improvement of the human understanding. Higher employments, however, at length called him from his country, which he was destined to serve more effectually as its agent in England, whither he was sent in 1757. The stamp act, by which the British minister wished to familiarize the Americans to pay taxes to the mother-country, revived that love of liberty which had led their forefathers to a country at that time a desert; and the colonies formed a congress, the first idea of which had been communicated to them by Franklin, at the conferences at Albany in 1754. The war that was just terminated, and the exertions made by them to support it, had given them a conviction of their strength: they opposed this measure, and the minister gave way, but reserved the means of renewing his attempts. Once cautioned, however, they remained on  
their

their guard; liberty, cherished by their alarms, took deep root, and the rapid circulation of ideas by means of newspapers, for the introduction of which they were indebted to the printer of Philadelphia, united them together to resist every fresh enterprise. In the year 1766, this printer, called to the bar of the house of commons, underwent that famous interrogatory, which placed the name of Franklin as high in politics, as it was before in natural philosophy.

Every man is acquainted with the particulars of the American war; but every man has not equally reflected on the bold attempt of Franklin as a legislator. Having asserted their independence, and placed themselves in the rank of nations, the different colonies, now the United States of America, adopted each its own form of government; and, retaining almost universally their admiration for the British constitution, framed them from the same principles variously modelled.

Having given laws to his country, Franklin undertook again to serve it in Europe; not by representations to the metropolis, or answers at the bar of the house of commons; but by treaties with France, and successively with other powers. From France he returned to America in 1785, and lived five years after this period: for three years he was president of the  
General



General Assembly of Pensylvania; he was a member of the Convention that established the new form of federal government; and his last public act was a grand example for those who are employed in the legislation of their country. In this convention he had differed in some points from the majority; but when the articles were ultimately decreed, he said to his colleagues, "*We ought to have but one opinion; the good of our country requires that the resolution be unanimous;*" and he signed. He died April 17, 1790.

As an author, he was well skilled in reducing useful truths to maxims easily retained, and sometimes to proverbs, or little tales, the simple and natural graces of which acquire a new value when associated with the name of their author. The most voluminous of his works is the history of his own life, which he commenced for his son, and which reached no farther than 1757. He speaks of himself as he would have done of another person, delineating his thoughts, his actions, and even his errors and faults; he describes the unfolding of his genius and talents with the simplicity of a great man who knows how to do justice to himself, and with the testimony of a clear conscience, void of reproach.

## SIR THOMAS GRESHAM.

CAMDEN says that Thomas Gresham was the descendant of an ancient family, who took their name from a town so called in Norfolk, and this family had produced several eminent men in different periods of British history; nor was the father of this gentleman, Sir Richard Gresham, of less note than his ancestors. For being fortunate in the business of a mercer, and enabled to purchase considerable estates, he became sheriff of London in 1531, and recommended himself to Henry VIII. who conferred upon him the honour of knighthood, and made him his principal agent for the negotiation of his mercantile concerns and loans at Antwerp, during his wars with France; and he was afterwards mayor. But Sir Richard is still more memorable as a citizen, for obtaining the privilege for private merchants to be bankers, and to negotiate bills of exchange without applying for a special licence, which was before required; and as this privilege was first exercised by merchants residing in Lombard-street, this made that situation so well known afterwards for this business; and here it was that Sir Richard proposed to build a bourse, or exchange: but this honour, however,

was

was reserved for his son Thomas; but he purchased the chapel of St. Thomas of Acres, now Mercers' chapel, for that company.

Sir Richard Gresham had two sons. The youngest son, our famous merchant, was born at London in 1519, and was bound apprentice to a mercer when he was very young; but he certainly did not follow the business as an apprentice; for we find him passing some years in his studies at Caius College, under the celebrated founder Dr. Caius, who in commendation of his application and proficiency, styled him *Doctissimus Mercator*, the very learned merchant. However, the profits of trade were then so great, and such large estates had been raised by it in his own family, that he also engaged in it, and was made free of the Mercers' company in 1543.

By Mr. Gresham's mercantile knowledge, and superior abilities, the then floating debt of the King, amounting to 260,000*l.* was by him put into a state of liquidation, so as to be entirely paid off in a few years. The credit of the crown of England, which before this was considered by the Flemish merchants as very slender, rose to such a height of reputation, that Mr. Gresham could borrow what sums he thought proper, on equitable terms, either on his master's, or his own private credit.

The



The demise of King Edward retarded, for a time, the honours due to this great man for his eminent services. When Queen Elizabeth succeeded to the crown, he was one of the first of her loyal citizens taken into favour. She employed him, soon after her accession, to buy up, and furnish the royal arsenals with arms; and the year following, her Majesty conferred on him the honour of knighthood, and appointed him her agent in foreign parts. Being now in the highest esteem with his fellow-citizens, and in great credit at court, he thought proper to fix his residence in the city, and to live there in a manner suitable to his rank and fortune. Stow observes, "he built that large and sumptuous house for his own dwelling on the west side of Bishopsgate-street," which, after the demise of his lady, was converted into a college, pursuant to his will, called Gresham college, and has since been pulled down to build the New Excise Office.

The merchants of London continuing to meet in the open air, exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, Sir Thomas resolved to revive his father's plan of building them a commodious bourse, on the plan of the bourse at Antwerp. With this view he generously proposed to his fellow-citizens, to erect this public edifice at his own expense, if the corporation would assign

assign over to him a proper spot of ground, sufficiently spacious to render it both useful and convenient. Such an instance of public munificence is but rarely to be met with, and therefore the city most readily and gratefully accepted his offer, in consequence of which they purchased eighty houses in Cornhill, situated in the three alleys. This done, the ground-plot was laid out at the expense of the city, and possession given to Sir Thomas, who in the deed of assignment is styled "Agent to the Queen's highness;" and on the 7th of June, 1567, the founder laid the first stone of the edifice, accompanied by some of the aldermen, who laid eight pieces of gold upon the bricks for the workmen; and after this ceremony was over, they seemed to vie with each other in expressing their gratitude. In November following the roof was covered in.

History informs us the plan of this bourse, or exchange, was an oblong square, with piazzas on the north and south sides, supported by ten pillars of marble on each side; and those on the east and west ends were supported by seven pillars on each side: under these piazzas, shops, to the number of 120, were neatly fitted up, which were let by Sir Thomas, on an average, at 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Other shops were fitted up at first in the vaults under ground, but the darkness and damp rendered them so unwholesome and inconvenient,

venient, that they were very soon removed, and the vaults let to suitable uses. Upon four pinnacles at each corner of the roof was placed a grasshopper, the crest of the arms of the Gresham family. This noble structure was burnt in the great fire of 1666, and the present one erected at the joint expense of the city and of the Mercers' company. It cost 80,000*l.* and was finished in the year 1670.

In 1569 Sir Thomas Gresham's exchange was entirely completed, and in January 1570, Queen Elizabeth, attended by her nobility, came from Somerset-house, and passing by Temple Bar, through Fleet-street, Cheap, and the north side of the new bourse, to Sir Thomas's house in Bishopsgate-street, dined there, and after dinner, returning through Cornhill, entered the bourse on the south side, and having viewed every part thereof above ground, especially the Pawn (the ranges of shops), which was richly furnished with all sorts of the finest wares in the city, she caused the bourse, by a trumpet and herald, to be proclaimed the **ROYAL EXCHANGE**, and so to be called from thenceforth, and not otherwise.

Queen Elizabeth, to show her high regard for Sir Thomas Gresham, and that he might not lose the dignity of a public character in the city, put him into the commission with the Archbishop of Canterbury,

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bury, the Bishop of London, and some lords of the council, who, in this reign, were usually appointed assistants to the Lord Mayor in the government of the city, during the Queen's summer progresses through the kingdom. This honour he held as occasion required, from 1572 to 1578.

Sir Thomas Gresham's active life would not permit him to be long absent from the bustle of the mercantile world; he loved to visit his favourite exchange, and to associate with merchants: upon which account, he would not retire to any of the considerable estates he had purchased in the remoter counties, but built a magnificent seat at Osterley Park, near Brentford, in Middlesex, where his royal Queen did him the honour to visit him.

Here he indulged himself with short intervals of relaxation, but his mind was always so full of plans for the public good, and the promotion of useful industry, that even here he mixed utility with recreation, and made business part of his amusement: for within his park he erected paper, oil, and corn mills, thus finding constant employment for various sorts of workmen.

The greater part of the very ample fortune which Sir Thomas Gresham had acquired by his close application to, and consummate skill in mercantile transactions, he now resolved to devote to the benefit

benefit of his fellow-citizens, and their children's children, having no legitimate heir to inherit it after his decease. Accordingly, he made no secret of his laudable design, to have his mansion-house (as it was then called) converted into a college for the profession of the seven liberal sciences, and to endow it with the revenues of the Royal Exchange, after his own and his lady's decease.

London at that time had no similar institution, and the want of liberal education made the principal merchants obstinate and tenacious of every idle prejudice adopted from custom. Another motive, undoubtedly, was that immortal fame, which every public-spirited, every good citizen should have in view, whereby, as he was venerated while living, so, in after-ages, his memory might be gratefully preserved in that community of which he was a respectable member.

Persisting therefore in the resolution of fixing the college in his dwelling-house, he executed a deed of settlement, dated May 20, 1575.

His worldly concerns being thus adjusted in a manner that could not but afford him much secret satisfaction, and the most pleasing reflections, it is most probable that he lived a retired life, enjoying the happy tranquillity which affluence, acquired by honest industry, and peace of mind,

the result of pious and benevolent actions, always afford; for no particular memoirs of the four last years of his life are handed down to us. All the account we have of him, after the year 1575, is, that on the 29th of November, 1579, this great and good man was taken off by an apoplectic fit.

What a pleasing and happy instance does this life afford, of what is in the power of man to perform, uniting talents to industry, and with all a virtuous and upright conduct.

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### SIR MATTHEW HALE.

**T**HIS great ornament to his country was the son of Robert Hale, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn, a gentleman of such strict honour, that he threw up his practice at the bar, because he could not reconcile it to his conscience. He was born in 1609. Both his parents died while he was a child, and the care of his education devolved on his guardian Anthony Kingscot, Esq. who put him under the tuition of Mr. Staunton, vicar of Wotton-under-Edge, till the year 1626, when he was sent to Magdalen hall, in Oxford, where he became a great proficient in learning.

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In 1629 Mr. Hale was entered of Lincoln's Inn, and applied himself so closely to his profession, that it is reported of him, that, for many years, he studied sixteen hours daily.

Not satisfied with the law-books then extant, he was very diligent in searching ancient records; and from these, and collections out of the books he had read, he composed a most valuable common-place book.

He was called to the bar a short time before the open rupture between King Charles I. and his parliament; and at this critical juncture it was extremely difficult for the gentlemen of the robe to act in such a manner as to preserve independency in their principles. Our young counsellor, however, had read the life of Titus Pomponius Atticus, the celebrated Epicurean philosopher and Roman orator, who, during the wars of Cæsar and Pompey, and of Anthony and Brutus, conducted himself with such address, that he was esteemed and carested by all parties; and Mr. Hale made him the model for his own behaviour, closely adhering to the two favourite maxims of the Roman philosopher, "To engage in no faction, nor meddle with public affairs:"—"Constantly to favour and relieve the oppressed."—By his integrity and great abilities in his profession he was constantly employed as

counsel by both parties ; and though he carefully avoided giving offence, he did not want spirit and resolution upon proper occasions ; for, in the defence of Lord Craven, he pleaded with such strength of argument, that the attorney - general threatened him for appearing against the government : upon which he boldly replied, " That he was pleading in defence of those laws which the government had declared they would maintain and preserve, and he was doing his duty to his client ; so that he was not to be daunted by threatenings."

In 1652 he was one of the able men in the law appointed by the parliament to revise and reform the laws of England on the death of Charles I.

In 1659 he was elected one of the burgeses for the university of Oxford, in gratitude for the service he had formerly done that learned body. In the Healing Parliament of 1660, which recalled Charles II. he was knight of the shire for the county of Gloucester.

In the space of a month after the King's restoration, he was recalled to the degree of a sergeant at law, by the royal writ, Cromwell's being deemed illegal ; and, upon settling the courts of Westminster-hall, in November, he was constituted chief baron of the exchequer. When the lord-chancellor Clarendon delivered him  
his

his commission, he told him, "that if the King could have found an honefter and fitter man for that employment, he would not have advanced him to it; and that he had therefore preferred him, because he knew none that deserved it so well." In this station he continued eleven years, and he very much raised the reputation and practice of his court, by his impartial administration of justice, his indefatigable diligence, and his great exactness in trials."

The King meeting him at the lord-chancellor's, he observed to his Majesty, "there was his modest chief-baron;" upon which his Majesty insisted upon making him a knight. It is recorded of this great man, that he manifested such an aversion to the very appearance of bribery, as was construed into affectation.

In 1671, our learned and upright judge was promoted to the high office of lord chief-justice of all England. This promotion gave great satisfaction to the people, who highly applauded the King's choice; for they considered Sir Matthew Hale, in his capacity of chief-justice of the court of King's-bench, as the guardian of their liberties, and thought they could not be better deposited than in the hands of a judge, who thoroughly understood them, and who possessed courage and integrity to maintain the sacred trust reposed in him.



But he held this important post only four years and a half; for he was suddenly attacked with a disorder in the beginning of the year 1676, which, in two days, reduced him so very low, that he found himself unable to go through the fatigue of public business, and therefore he solicited a writ of ease, which being delayed, he resigned in February, and died in the month of December of the same year. He was interred in the church-yard of Alderly.

It may be said, to the immortal honour of Judge Hale, that no man observed the rites of Sabbath better, and few possessed the same zeal for religion as he did. It was observed by himself, that if he had by any means neglected his duty to God on that day, the affairs of the succeeding week took not so pleasant a turn, as when he had performed it. The valuable work he has left as a legacy to his country is, *The History of the Pleas of the Crown*, published in 1736, from his original MS.

JONAS

## JONAS HANWAY.

**T**HIS benevolent character, Jonas Hanway, whose memoirs we are about to give, was the son of Thomas Hanway, an officer: he was born 1712, and put to school in London, where he learned writing and accompts, and made some proficiency in Latin. At the age of seventeen he went over to Lisbon, where he arrived 1729, and was bound apprentice to a merchant in that city. His early life was marked with that discreet attention to business, and love of neatness and regularity, which distinguished his future character. On the expiration of his apprenticeship he entered into business at Lisbon as a merchant or factor, but did not remain there long before he returned to London. From the time of his arrival in London to the year 1743, when he went over with intention to settle at Petersburg, nothing remarkable occurred to him. He was not indeed in this period, nor in any other part of his life, inactive. As commerce was his profession, he pursued it with an arduous and indefatigable attention, and the strictest regard to honour and integrity.

Being appointed agent to the British factory at Petersburg, he was sent to Persia, with a view of opening a trade through Russia into Persia. In September, 1743, after making the necessary dispositions for his journey, he set out from Petersburg, with an interpreter, who had been before in that part of Persia into which he was going, a clerk, a Russian menial servant, a Tartar boy, and a guard.

The limits of this work will not permit us to give an account of his adventures in Persia, of which a copious relation is given in his Travels. From Persia he returned to Russia, and then passed through Germany and Holland, and returned to England in October, 1750, after an absence of nearly eight years.

In 1753 he published "An Historical Account of the British Trade over the Caspian Sea, with a Journal of Travels from England, through Russia, into Persia, and back through Russia, Germany, and Holland."

Mr. Hanway published "A Letter to Mr. Spranger, on his excellent Proposals for paving, cleansing, and lighting the Streets of Westminster," &c. Acts of parliament were afterwards passed for promoting this business both in London and Westminster; and this undertaking has introduced a degree of elegance and symmetry



metry into the streets of the metropolis, that is the admiration of Europe.

He proposed the Marine Society for encouraging the breed of seamen, and by the most unceasing attention to its interest, and the management of its finances, deserved also the title of its guardian.

We find him afterwards becoming the friend of the infant parish poor, and next the Magdalen Hospital.

Mr. Hanway continued, till towards the close of his life, to employ his time in his official business, and in supporting and promoting the charitable institutions which he had founded, or interested himself in; but in the summer of 1786 his health declined visibly. He had long felt the approach of a disorder in the bladder, which increasing, put a period to a life spent almost entirely in the service of his fellow-creatures, in 1786.

Mr. Pugh, his biographer, says, "His mind was the most active that it is possible to conceive; always on the wing, and never appearing to be weary. To sit still, and endeavour to give rest to the thought, was a luxury to which he was a perfect stranger: he dreaded nothing so much as inactivity.

"He rose in the summer at four or five, and in the winter at seven; and having always business before him, he was every

day employed till the time of retiring to rest.

“ In his transactions with the world he was always open, candid, and sincere. Whatever he said might be depended on with implicit confidence. He adhered to the strict truth, even in the *manner* of his relation, and no brilliancy of thought could induce him to vary from the fact. He used to say—‘ Confidence is the reward of truth and fidelity; and these should never be exerted in vain.’

“ He knew well how much the happiness of mankind is dependent on honest industry, and received a pleasure, but faintly described in words, when any of the objects of his charity cleanly apparelled, and with cheerful and contented countenances, came to pay their respects to him.

“ He was a firm believer in the great truths of christianity; and his piety was pure, fervent, rational, and sincere. Besides his Travels, and several miscellaneous productions, he also published a number of small pieces, calculated to convey useful, moral, and religious instruction to the lower classes of mankind.”

## DR. DAVID HARTLEY.

**D**R. David Hartley was born on the 30th of August, 1705: he was the son of a very worthy and respectable clergyman at Armley, in Yorkshire. He received the first rudiments of his education at a private school, and his academical instruction at Cambridge. He was admitted at Jesus college at the age of fifteen, and was afterwards elected a fellow of that society. He was originally intended for the church, and proceeded for some time in his thoughts and studies towards that object: but, upon a closer consideration of the conditions attached to the clerical profession, he was restrained by some scruples.

Though his talents were very general, yet undoubtedly his pre-eminent faculties were formed for the moral and religious sciences. These talents displayed themselves, in the earliest parts of life, with so much distinction, as could not fail to hold out to his ambition a future career of honourable fame, in the service of the national church; if he could have complied with the conditions, consistently with the satisfaction of his own mind. But he had  
always



always a most scrupulous and disinterested mind, which disposed him in every part of his life, and under all circumstances, to adhere firmly to those principles which appeared to him to form the strict and conscientious line of moral duty.

In consequence of this determination, he applied his talents and studies to the medical profession, in which he soon became equally and in the first degree eminent for skill, integrity, and charitable compassion. His mind was formed to benevolence and universal philanthropy. He exercised the healing art with anxious and equal fidelity to the poor and to the rich.

He visited, with affectionate sympathy, the humblest recesses of poverty and sickness, as well as the stately beds of pampered distemper and premature decrepitude. His manners were gentle; his countenance affable; his eloquence moral and pathetic, not harsh or importunate; yet he was not unmindful that bodily sickness softens the mind to moral sensibilities, which afforded frequent opportunities to him of exercising mental charities to afflicted minds, whilst he employed the powers of medical science to the restoration of bodily health. He thus united all the talents of his own mind for natural and moral science, conformably

formably to that universal system of final morality which he inculcates, by which each effort of sensation or science in the various gradations of life must be esteemed defective, until it shall have attained to its corresponding mental consummation.

He was industrious and indefatigable in the pursuit of all collateral branches of knowledge, and lived in personal intimacy with the learned men of his age.

The celebrated Mr. Pope was admired by him, not only as a man of genius, but also as a moral poet: yet, as he was a zealous christian, without guile, he felt some jealousy of the rivalship of human philosophy, and regarded the Essay on Man as tending to insinuate that the divine revelation of the christian religion was superfluous, in a case where human philosophy was adequate.

He was an admirer and disciple of Sir Isaac Newton in every branch of literature and philosophy, natural and experimental, mathematical, historical, and religious, which that great man diffused throughout the world. He received his first principles of logic and metaphysics from the works of that good and great philosopher Locke.

He took the first rudiments of his work from Sir Isaac Newton and Mr. Locke: the doctrine of vibrations, as instrumental to sensation and motion, from the former;

former, and the principle of association originally from the latter, farther explained in a dissertation by the reverend Mr. Gay, as he himself has informed us.

His ingenious work of the History of Man was begun when he was 25 years of age; and it remains upon his own authority, as declared by himself to his private friends and connexions, that the seeds of this work were lying in latent germination for some years antecedent even to that early bud, which in the work itself has displayed, in full maturity, the mechanical, rational, and moral system of man, respecting his frame, his duty, and his expectations.

Dr. Hartley's work was published in the year 1749. He kept a general and vigilant attention upon the work, to receive and to consider any subsequent thoughts which might have occurred from his own reflections, or from the suggestions of others, by which he might have modified or arranged any incongruous or discordant parts. But no such alterations or modifications seem to have occurred to him.

The learned and ingenious Dr. Priestley published, in the year 1775, some parts of Dr. Hartley's works, in an octavo volume. Dr. Priestley had commenced a correspondence with the author a short time before his death, and has, in subsequent  
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literary works, commented, with great acuteness and erudition, upon his metaphysical and moral system.

The philosophical character of Dr. Hartley is delineated in his works. The features of his private and personal character were of the same complexion.

His thoughts were not immersed in worldly pursuits or contentions, and therefore his life was not eventful or turbulent, but placid, and undisturbed by passion or violent ambition. From his earliest youth his mental ambition was pre-occupied by pursuits of science. His hours of amusement were likewise bestowed upon objects of taste and sentiment.

Music, poetry, and history, were his favourite recreations. His imagination was fertile and correct; his language and expression fluent and forcible. His natural temper was gay, cheerful, and sociable. He was addicted to no vice in any part of his life, neither to pride, nor to sensuality, nor intemperance, nor ostentation, nor envy, nor to any sordid self-interest; but his heart was replete with every contrary virtue. The moral principles which are instilled in his works were the invariable and decided principles of his life and conduct.

He was peculiarly neat in his person and attire: he was an early riser, and punctual in the employments of the day;  
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methodical in the order and disposition of his library, papers, and writings, as the companions of his thoughts, but without any pedantry, either in these habits or in any other part of his character. His behaviour was polite, easy, and graceful; but that which made his address peculiarly engaging was, the benevolence of heart from which that politeness flowed. It is said, he never conversed with a fellow-creature without feeling a wish to do him good. He considered the moral end of our creation to consist in the performance of the duties of life attached to each particular station, to which all other considerations ought to be inferior and subordinate. In this he was the faithful disciple of his own theory, and by the observance of it he avoided the tumult of worldly vanities and their disquietudes, and preserved his mind in serenity and vigour, to perform the duties of life with fidelity and without distraction.

He died August, 1757, at the age of fifty-two years.

REV.

## REV. JAMES HERVEY, A.M.

**MR. HERVEY** was the eldest son of a respectable clergyman in the neighbourhood of Northampton, where our author was born, February the 26th, 1713. Here he received his first instructions from his mother, who taught him to read.

At seven years old he was sent as a day-scholar to the free grammar-school at Northampton, where he acquired the rudiments of Greek and Latin.

At this school he laboured in the drudgeries of learning ten years, till he was removed to Oxford. In 1731 he was entered at Lincoln college, where, by the favour of Dr. Isham, he soon obtained an exhibition of 20*l.* per annum, left by the munificence of Bishop Crew.

In the year 1733 he formed an acquaintance with some fellow-students who began to be distinguished by their seriousness and application, and became, like them, "diligent in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." He was particularly charmed with the elegant and instructive writings of the Abbé Le Pluche, Dr. Derham, and Mr. Ray; and began to copy



copy them, by associating religion with every subject he contemplated.

Two years after this he left the university, only taking his degree of Bachelor of Arts, though of five years standing. In September, 1736, he received deacon's orders, and accepted the curacy of Dummer, in Hampshire, where he remained about a twelvemonth. In 1738 he was invited to Stoke Abbey, in Devonshire.

In 1740 he undertook the curacy of Biddeford, where he continued till the death of his rector; whose successor dismissed him, notwithstanding the remonstrances of his parishioners, who loved Mr. Hervey so well as to offer to support him at their own expense. It was during his residence in the west of England that he planned the first volume of his Meditations.

In February 1745-6 was published the first volume of his Meditations. The pleasing manner in which he drew instruction from the solemn memorials of the dead, and the pious use he made of the more agreeable objects of the garden, recommended this work to the taste of serious and pious readers of different denominations; and the success of the first volume produced a second, on the Night and Starry Heavens. Perhaps nothing more strongly exhibits that heavenly-mindedness recommended in the scriptures, than

than an aptitude of spiritualizing the natural objects which surround us; and a readiness to improve common events and incidents, by recurring to, and comparing them with, others of the highest importance.

He, on the death of his father, in 1752, returned to Weston, to succeed him.

His father, at the time of his death, possessed two livings; that of Weston-Favell, which was worth about 100*l.* per annum, and the adjacent one of Collingtree, which produced about 80*l.*: out of their joint produce a curate was to be maintained, and 20*l.* to be deducted for repairs. He was first inducted to the former living; and, according to his curate, for some time scrupled to accept the other, from a doubt as to the lawfulness of ecclesiastical pluralities.

In 1752 he published his *Remarks on Lord Bolingbroke's "Letters on the Study and Use of History,"* in which, with a considerable degree of spirit and acumen, we see the scholar, the gentleman, and the christian, in every line. It has been the practice of the most considerable enemies of christianity not to attack it openly and avowedly, but rather, as it should appear, accidentally, in treating of other subjects, as they know the bulwarks of

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revelation are too strong to suffer from their most formidable assaults.

In 1755 he published three volumes of Dialogues between Theron and Aspasio; which may be considered as, in some respects, his most important work; because they discussed some of the most interesting truths of revelation, and involved our author in controversy to defend them.

Mr. Hervey himself was a man of the most unexceptionable morals, and maintained the absolute *necessity* of *good works*, not indeed to our justification itself, but to the evidence of it to ourselves and others; which appears also to be clearly the doctrine of the church of England in her eleventh and twelfth articles.

His last publication (except a reprint of Mr. Jenks's Meditations) consisted of three excellent and practical sermons, preached upon the fast-days, and afterwards reprinted with two or three others. Our author's labours were now nearly at an end; his health and spirits hastily declined; and on Sunday, December 3, 1758, he appeared to be arrested by the hand of death.

On the 20th Dr. Stonhouse gave his opinion that Mr. Hervey could not survive above three or four days: when discouraging on the consolation of religion, and the unprofitableness of riches, the latter



latter said, " True, Doctor, true; the only valuable treasures are in heaven. What would it avail me now to be Archbishop of Canterbury? Disease would show no respect to my mitre.—How careful ought *we* to be to improve those years which remain at a time of life when but few can remain for us!"

He died December 1758.

The lover of christianity will always revere the character of Mr. Hervey. His labours, though short on earth, were various and valuable.

The benevolence and generosity of the *man* could only be exceeded by the piety and devotion of the *christian*. As a *minister*, he exerted himself to the utmost of his strength, and oftentimes beyond it, in the service of *Christ*, and the salvation of sinners. As a *gentleman*, and an *author*, to his other excellencies he added an uncommon degree of urbanity, delicacy, and elegance, so as justly to merit the following eulogium of an ingenious contemporary:

—"Thou, Hervey, too,  
Whose page and soul alike breathe humblest love  
To thy ador'd Redeemer; thou hast shown  
That piety and polish'd elegance  
May well together suit: and while remains  
Or piety, or elegance, thy works,  
Like genuine gold, the touchstone will abide,  
And grateful to thy countrymen remain!"

His

His works have been lately published in seven volumes complete.

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JOHN HOWARD, ESQ.

**T**HE celebrated philanthropist John Howard was born at Enfield, in Middlesex, about the year 1724, and put apprentice to Mr. Nathaniel Newnham, a wholesale grocer in Watlingstreet. His constitution was thought very weak, and his health appeared to have been injured by the necessary duties of his apprenticeship; at the expiration of it, therefore, he took an apartment in a lodging-house in Stoke Newington, kept by a Mrs. Sarah Lardeau, by whom he was nursed with the utmost care and attention.

About 1755, it is believed, he was elected F.R.S. and, with an intention of visiting Lisbon, after the earthquake, he, at Midsummer 1756, set sail on board the Hanover packet, which was taken by a French privateer.

He afterwards made the tour of Italy, and at his return settled at Brokenhurst, a retired and pleasant villa in the New Forest, near Lymington, in Hampshire.

From thence he removed to an estate he purchased at Cardington, near Bedford, where he very much conciliated the esteem of the poor, by employing them, building cottages for them, &c. In 1773 he served the office of sheriff of the county of Bedford. This office, as he observes, brought "the distress of prisoners more immediately under his notice;" and, with a view to its alleviation, he began his labours by "visiting most of the county gaols in England," and afterwards "the bridewells, houses of correction, city and town gaols," where he found "multitudes both of felons and debtors dying of the gaol fever and the small-pox."

Upon this subject he was examined in the House of Commons in March, 1774, when "he had the honour of their thanks." This encouraged him to proceed in his design: he travelled again and again through Great Britain and Ireland, and also into France, Flanders, Holland, Germany, and Switzerland; and published *The State of the Prisons in England and Wales, with preliminary Observations, and an Account of some foreign Prisons, 1777*, 4to. with a Dedication to the House of Commons, dated April 5, 1777.

In 1780 he published an Appendix to this Account, in which he extended the



narrative of his travels to Italy, and gave some observations concerning the management of prisoners of war, and the hulks on the Thames. This appendix he republished in 1784; which publication included also an account of his visit to Denmark, Sweden, Russia, Poland, Portugal, and Spain.

By this time his character for active benevolence had engaged the public attention, and it was proposed that a subscription should be set on foot, to erect a statue to his honour. This idea, being taken up and zealously forwarded by Mr. Deputy Nichols, was so well received, that, in fifteen or sixteen months, 615 persons subscribed 1533*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*; but some of those who knew Mr. Howard best never concurred in the scheme, being well assured that he would never countenance nor accede to it: and the event justified their conduct; for the language that he held upon the subject, when first advised of it, was, "Have not I one friend in England, that would put a stop to such a proceeding?"

Such was the unbounded modesty of Mr. Howard. To be useful to society, he considered as the first duty of Man; and if from his active labours he had alleviated any part of the sufferings of his fellow-beings, it was to him a source of real joy. For this end, nothing could  
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impede his benevolent exertions. He had sustained various hardships in different climates; which, instead of lessening or damping his ardour, seemed to give fresh powers to the mind in his laudable pursuit.

We find afterwards that, by his ardent wish, the plan of his friends was stopped.

He next published an "Account of the principal Lazarettos in Europe, with various Papers relative to the Plague; together with further Observations on some foreign Prisons and Hospitals, and additional Remarks on the present State of those in Great Britain and Ireland;" with a great number of curious plates. Not satisfied, however, with what he had already done, he concludes his Account of Lazarettos with announcing his intention again to quit his country; for the purpose of re-visiting Russia, Turkey, and some other countries, and extending his tour in the East. On this tour, however, he fell a victim to his humanity; for, having visited a young lady at Cherson, sick of an epidemic fever, for the purpose of administering some medical assistance, he caught the distemper himself, and was carried off in twelve days, January 20, 1790.

What permanent good may arise from his unwearied, well-intended labours, both in these kingdoms and the rest of

Europe, time only can show. Certain it is, that his plan has been adopted in many of our new-built gaols, and will gradually extend to more. The name of Howard will live in the remembrance of those who have been rescued by his exertions, from the gloomy horrors of confinement, which might otherwise have been unlimited; alleviated in the pangs of disease, which might have been irremediable, and comforted in the still more agonizing reproaches of conscious guilt, which would inevitably have terminated in destruction.

When we contemplate the various duties of men, and to what noble objects their minds in different periods have been directed, instead of merely speaking of them as once living but now no more, they should call for our reverence and gratitude: such is the character we are now speaking of, and many others in the present volume.

A statue to Mr. Howard's memory has been erected in St. Paul's cathedral.



## SIR WILLIAM JONES.

**SIR WILLIAM JONES**, one of the judges of the supreme court of judicature in Bengal, was born 1746. Endowed by nature with a mind of extraordinary vigour, by unwearied industry, aided by superior genius, he successfully explored the hidden sources of Oriental science and literature; and his attainments in this interesting branch of learning were such as to place him far beyond all competition, the most eminent Oriental scholar in this or perhaps any other age.

In his public character, the labour he afforded in the dispatch of business, the clearness of his discernment, and his legal abilities, well qualified him for one of the guardians of the laws and the rights of his fellow-citizens.

As a scholar, his name is known wherever literature is cultivated. In private life he was companionable, mild, gentle, and amiable in his manners, and his conversation rich and energetic. In fine, in all the relations of public and private life, he was revered and beloved.

We are particularly indebted to his successor, Sir J. Shore, for the following

eulogium on his memory, delivered at the Asiatic Society in Calcutta, May, 1794:

“It was lately our boast to possess a president whose name, talents, and character would have been honourable to any institution: it is now our misfortune to lament that Sir William Jones exists but in the affections of his friends, and in the esteem, veneration, and regret of all.

“I cannot, I flatter myself, offer a more grateful tribute to the society than by making his character the subject of my first address to you; and if, in the delineation of it, fondness and affection for the man should appear—blended with my reverence for his genius and abilities, in the sympathy of your feelings I shall find my apology.

“To define with accuracy the variety, value, and extent of his literary attainments, requires more learning than I pretend to possess. However, I shall begin with mentioning his wonderful capacity for the acquisition of languages, which has never been excelled. In Greek and Roman literature, his early proficiency was the subject of admiration and applause; and knowledge, of whatever nature, once obtained by him, was ever afterwards progressive.

“At an early period of life his application to Oriental literature commenced: he studied the Hebrew with ease and success.

“Before

“ Before the expiration of his twenty-second year he had completed his Commentaries on the Poetry of the Asiatics.— But the judgment of Sir William Jones was too discerning to consider language in any other light than as the key of science, and he would have despised the reputation of a mere linguist. Knowledge and truth were the object of all his studies, and his ambition was to be useful to mankind; with these views he extended his researches to all languages, nations, and times.

“ The students of Persian literature must ever be grateful to him for a grammar of that language, in which he has shown the possibility of combining taste and elegance with the precision of a grammarian; and every admirer of Arabic poetry must acknowledge his obligations to him for an English version of the seven celebrated poems so well known by the name of MOALLAKAT, from the distinction to which their excellence had entitled them, of being suspended in the Temple of Mecca.

“ Of his lighter productions, the elegant amusements of his leisure hours, comprehending Hymns on the Hindu Mythology, Poems, consisting chiefly of translations from the Asiatic languages, and the version of SACONTALA, an ancient Indian drama, it would be



unbecoming to speak in a style of importance, which he did not himself annex to them. They show the activity of a vigorous mind, its fertility, its genius, and its taste.

“ Of the ability and conscientious integrity with which he discharged the functions of a magistrate, and the duties of a judge of the supreme court of judicature in this settlement, the public voice and public regret bear ample and merited testimony.

“ With a mind rich in knowledge, he also professed his conviction of the truth of the Christian religion; and he justly deemed it no inconsiderable advantage that his researches had corroborated the multiplied evidence of revelation, by confirming the Mosaic account of the primitive world.

“ To an unextinguished ardour for universal knowledge, he joined a perseverance in the pursuit of it, which subdued all obstacles: his studies began with the dawn, and during the intermissions of professional duties, were continued throughout the day; reflection and meditation strengthened and confirmed what industry and investigation had accumulated.

“ Of the private and social virtues of our lamented president our hearts are the best records. To you who knew him it cannot be necessary for me to expatiate on  
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the independence of his integrity, his humanity, probity, or benevolence, which every living creature participated; on the affability of his conversation and manners, or his modest, unassuming deportment. His presence was the delight of every society, which his conversation exhilarated and improved; and the public have not only to lament the loss of his talents and abilities, but that of his example."

He died April, 1794.

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### DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON.

**O**UR celebrated lexicographer and moralist, Samuel Johnson, was born at Lichfield, September 7, 1709. His father, Michael Johnson, was a bookseller in that city.

At eight years old, he was placed under Mr. Hawkins, at the free-school at Lichfield; where he was not remarkable for diligence or regular application. Whatever he read, his tenacious memory made his own. In the fields with his school-fellows he talked more to himself than with his companions. In 1725, when he was about sixteen years old, he went on a

visit to his cousin Cornelius Ford, who detained him for some months, and in the mean time assisted him in the classics. —The general direction for his studies, which he then received, he related to Mrs. Piozzi.

Mr. Ford's observation was—“Get some general principles of every science: he who can talk only on one subject, or act only in one department, is seldom wanted, and, perhaps, never wished for; while the man of general knowledge can often benefit, and always please.”

This advice Johnson seems to have pursued with a good inclination. His reading was always desultory, seldom resting on any particular author, but rambling from one book to another, and by hasty snatches, hoarding up a variety of knowledge.

On his return from Ford, Mr. Hunter, then master of the free-school at Lichfield, refused to receive him again on that foundation. He was, therefore, placed at another school, at Stourbridge, in Worcestershire, under the care of Mr. Wentworth. Having gone through the rudiments of classic literature, he returned to his father's house.

At the end of two years, being then about nineteen, he went to assist the studies of a young gentleman, of the name of Corbet, to the university of

Ox-



Oxford; and on the 31st of October, 1728, both were entered of Pembroke college; Corbet as a gentleman-commoner, and Johnson as a commoner.

Ethics, theology, and classic literature, were his favourite studies. He discovered, notwithstanding, early symptoms of that wandering disposition of mind which adhered to him to the end of his life. His reading was by fits and starts, undirected to any particular science. General philology, agreeably to his cousin Ford's advice, was the object of his ambition. He received, at that time, an early impression of piety, and a taste for the best authors ancient and modern.

He continued at the university till the want of pecuniary supplies obliged him to quit the place. He obtained, however, the assistance of a friend, and returning in a short time, was able to complete a residence of three years.

Wonders are told of his memory; and, indeed, all who knew him late in life can witness that he retained that faculty in the greatest vigour.

From the university Johnson returned to Lichfield. His father died soon after, December, 1731; and the whole receipt out of his effects, as appeared by a memorandum in the son's hand-writing, dated 15th June, 1732, was no more than twenty pounds. In this exigence,

determined that poverty should neither depress his spirit nor warp his integrity, he became under-master of a grammar school at Market Bosworth, in Leicestershire.

Leaving this occupation, we find his next expedient was to offer his assistance to Cave, the original projector of the Gentleman's Magazine. For this purpose, he sent his proposals in a letter, offering, on reasonable terms, occasionally to fill some pages with poems and inscriptions never printed before. Cave agreed to retain him as a correspondent and contributor to the magazine.

Having, while he remained in the country, corresponded with Cave under a feigned name, he now thought it time to make himself known, on coming to town, to a man whom he considered as a patron of literature.

Of Cave's character it is unnecessary to say any thing in this place, as Johnson was afterwards the biographer of his first and most useful patron.

About this period, he produced several works, that gained him a considerable degree of praise, particularly his London, a satire; the translation of Lobo's Narrative, and the Life of his friend Savage.

In August, 1738, we find he went, with all the fame of his poetry, to offer himself a candidate for the mastership of the school at Appleby, in Leicestershire. But he

he miscarried.—It is mortifying to pursue a man of merit through all his difficulties; and yet this narrative must be, through many following years, the history of Genius and Virtue struggling with Adversity. Having lost the school at Appleby, Johnson was thrown back on the metropolis. Bred to no profession, without relations, friends, or interest, he was condemned to drudgery in the service of Cave, his only patron.

With a mind naturally vigorous, and quickened by necessity, he formed a multiplicity of projects; but most of them proved abortive. A number of small tracts issued from his pen with wonderful rapidity.

It is a mortifying reflection, that with a store of learning and extraordinary talents, he was not able, at the age of thirty, to force his way to the favour of the public. “He was still,” as he says himself, “to provide for the day that was passing over him.”

In 1743-4, Osborne, the bookseller, purchased the Earl of Oxford's library, at the price of thirteen thousand pounds. He projected a catalogue in five octavo volumes. Johnson was employed in that painful drudgery. He was likewise to collect all such small tracts as were in any degree worth preserving, in order to re-print



print and publish the whole in a collection, called *The Harleian Miscellany*.

Soon after, a new undertaking was proposed to him; namely, an *English Dictionary*, upon an enlarged plan. Several of the most opulent booksellers had meditated a work of this kind; and the agreement was soon adjusted between the parties.

In this work our author, as he justly merited, has obtained immortal fame.—Generations still unborn may live to lament that a mind so stored with knowledge should have found so few friends to push him forward, or to have ever let him felt the force of his own pensive line—

“Slow rises worth by poverty depress’d.”

This great work was completed 1755, in two volumes folio.

Having invoked the special protection of Heaven, and by that act of piety fortified his mind, he began the work of the *Rambler*. The first number was published on Tuesday, March the 20th, 1750.

On the close of this work, Johnson observes—“I therefore look back on this part of my work with pleasure, which no man shall diminish or augment. I shall never

never envy the honours which wit and learning obtain in any other cause, if I can be numbered among the writers who have given ardour to virtue and confidence to truth."

We find him afterwards assisting Dr. Hawkesworth in the *Adventurer*, and engaged as editor of an edition of Shakespeare, with several other works, some written for the day, others of greater importance. From this period, our author began to emerge from difficulties. His circumstances became more easy, indeed affluent (for we find that Government allowed him a pension), and his friends and connexions increased.

Though he possessed a great mind, he was not without many prejudices. His politeness too has often been called in question: but his charity and a wish to do good, will be long remembered by those who immediately partook of his bounty.

To sum up the character of this great man. Since virtue, or moral goodness, consists in a just conformity of our actions to the relations in which we stand to the Supreme Being and to our fellow-creatures, where shall we find a man who has been, or endeavoured to be, more diligent in the discharge of those essential duties? His first prayer was composed in 1738: he continued those fervent ejaculations of piety

piety to the end of his life. In his Meditations we see him scrutinizing himself with severity, and aiming at perfection unattainable by man. His duty to his neighbour consisted in universal benevolence, and a constant aim at the production of happiness.

He died 1784.

In St. Paul's there is a handsome monument erected to record his memory.

A fine edition of his works has been published in 12 volumes octavo.

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### DR. ANDREW KIPPIS,

**A** DISSENTING English divine, and celebrated biographer, being the principal author and conductor of that great national work the Biographia Britannica, was born at Nottingham, 1725. His father, a respectable tradesman of that town, dying in the year 1730, he went to reside with his grandfather, Andrew Kippis, of Seaford; and received his classical education at the grammar-school in that town. In 1741 he removed to Northampton, and commenced his academical studies under Dr. Doddridge. After



After a residence of five years at the academy, he was invited by several congregations to become their minister, but gave the preference to an invitation from Boston, in Lincolnshire; where he went to reside in 1746. Here he continued four years; and in 1750 accepted the pastoral charge of a congregation at Dorking, in Surry.

The congregation meeting in Princes-street, Westminster, having been without a minister about two years, he was chosen in June, 1753, to succeed the Rev. Dr. Hughes, and in the month of October fixed his residence in Westminster.

In June, 1767, he received the degree of D. D. from the university of Edinburgh, on the unsolicited recommendation of the late learned professor Robertson.

He was elected a member of the Society of Antiquaries in March, 1778; and in 1779 was chosen a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Dr. Kippis was eminently distinguished for the virtues and accomplishments which form the chief ornaments of private life. With a suavity of manners and urbanity of behaviour peculiarly attractive, he united that knowledge of men and books, which rendered his conversation uncommonly entertaining and instructive to the circle of his acquaintance and friends.

As

As a minister he was not less eminent for his profound acquaintance with every branch of theology, than for the happy manner in which he applied it to the improvement of those who attended his ministry. His sermons were remarkable for perspicuity, elegance, and energy; and his elocution was unaffected and very impressive, particularly at the close of his discourses.

But the superior powers and vigour of mind which he derived from nature, and which he had cultivated with unremitting diligence and peculiar success, were not to be confined to the narrow limits of private life, and the duties of the pastoral charge, however important; they were designed for more extensive and important services to his country and to mankind. The interests of literature, science, and religion, have received from the exertion of his talents as a writer, the most essential advantages.

His first efforts in literature were made in the Gentleman's Magazine, a periodical publication called the Library, and the Monthly Review: to each of which he contributed many important articles, especially in the historical and philological departments of the last.

He was the author of three important tracts, viz. A Vindication of the Protest-

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ant Dissenting Ministers, &c.; Observations on the late Contest in the Royal Society; and Considerations on the Treaty with America, &c. His improved edition of Dr. Doddridge's Lectures is a work of great value; and The History of Knowledge, Learning, and Taste, in Great Britain, prefixed to the New Annual Register, merits, and has received, the approbation of the public.

He published, at different times, several single sermons entitled to very high praise. The greater part of these he republished, with other practical discourses, in the year 1794; but the work which, next to the studies immediately connected with his office as a Christian minister, engaged his principal attention, and by which he will ever be distinguished, is the Biographia Britannica.

In this great national publication, the comprehensiveness and powers of his mind, the correctness of his judgment, the vast extent of his information, his indefatigable researches and unremitting assiduity, his peculiar talent of appreciating the merits and analysing the labours of the most eminent writers, and his unbiaſſed fidelity and impartial decision on the characters of the philosopher, statesman, poet, scholar, and divine, are strongly displayed, and universally acknowledged. His style, formed on the  
models



models of Sir William Temple and the classical Addison, is remarkable for its perspicuity, elegance, and purity, and gives a peculiar lustre to the rich stores of knowledge treasured in the volumes now published, and which it is hoped will be continued and completed in the same elegant and critical manner.

This work has given him a high rank among the literati of this country, and will carry down his name with distinguished reputation to posterity.

This good man died Oct. 8, 1795.

### JOHN LOCKE.

**T**HE celebrated philosopher John Locke was born at Wrington, in Somersetshire, in 1632.

During his infancy his education was conducted with paternal care and affection, but with much strictness and severity, by his father.

The first part of his education he received at Westminster school, where he remained till he was 19 years of age, when he was removed to Oxford; and, being admitted of Christ-church, in 1651, became a student of that college.

Hav-

Having taken, at the regular times, both his degrees in arts, he put himself upon the physick line, to which profession he applied himself with great diligence, and practised therein a little at Oxford; but finding his constitution not able to bear the fatigue of much business, he forbore to push it; and, being highly delighted with the philosophy of Des Cartes, which then began to grow in vogue, he thence took a fancy to that study.

In 1664 he had an opportunity of going abroad, in quality of secretary to Sir William Swan, who was appointed envoy to the Elector of Brandenburg, and some other German princes.

He returned the year following to Oxford, where he continued to improve his knowledge in natural philosophy and physick; and particularly, in 1666, fell in with a scheme that had been lately set on foot by Dr. Plott, of keeping a register of the air, in order to perfect the natural history of what the physicians call the non-naturals.

He printed this at the end of a posthumous piece of Mr. Robert Boyle's, intitled, A General History of the Air.

He was thus employed when an accident brought him acquainted with Lord Ashley, afterwards Earl of Shaftesbury. His Lordship having an abscess in his  
breast,

breast, occasioned by a fall, was advised to drink the Astrop waters. In this design, he wrote to a physician at Oxford, to procure some of those waters to be ready against his arrival. That physician being called away by other business, transferred his commission to his friend Mr. Locke, who found himself obliged to wait upon his lordship the day after his arrival, to excuse the disappointment of not having the waters ready.

From this beginning, that lord became our philosopher's patron, and took him into his house; and introduced him to several lords of his acquaintance, who showed him extraordinary respect.

Le Clerc tells us, that three or four of the noblemen who thus countenanced Mr. Locke, having met at Lord Ashley's, rather for amusement than business, after some compliments, very little conversation had passed when the butler brought in the cards. Mr. Locke looked on for some time while they were at play, and then, taking out his pocket-book, began to write with great attention. One of the company observing this, asked him what he was writing. "My lord," says he, "I am endeavouring to profit, as far as I am capable, in your company."

The noble lords saw the ridicule, and diverted themselves with improving the jest. They presently quitted their play, entered



entered into a conversation more suitable to their characters, and spent the rest of the day in that manner.

After this he continued to reside with Lord Ashley.

In 1670, and the following year, he began to form the plan of his *Essay on Human Understanding*, but was hindered from making any great progress in that work by other employments, which were found for him by his patron, who, in 1672, being raised to the post of lord-chancellor, did not forget to let his faithful friend share in the fruits of his power, by appointing him secretary of the presentations.

This place he held as long as Lord Shaftesbury kept the great seal.

In 1689 Mr. Locke printed at Amsterdam, in Latin, his *First Letter upon Toleration*, which was translated into Dutch and French the same year.

About the same time he was offered to go abroad in a public character; and it was left to his choice whether he would be envoy at the court of the Emperor, that of the Elector of Brandenburg, or any other, where he thought the air most suitable to him; but he waved all these on account of the ill state of his health.

In 1690 he published his celebrated *Essay on Human Understanding*, in folio.

In

In 1695, King William observing him to be very capable of serving the public, appointed him one of the commissioners of trade and plantations. By this means he became engaged in the immediate service of the state; and, with regard to that of the church, in order to promote the scheme which his majesty had much at heart, of a comprehension with the Dissenters, he published, the same year, his treatise, entitled, *The Reasonableness of Christianity*, as delivered in the Scriptures.

He employed the last years of his life entirely in the study of the Holy Scriptures. His strength began to fail more remarkably than it had done at the entrance of the summer of the year 1703, a season, which, in former years, had always restored him some degrees of strength.

He lived some months after this; which time he spent in acts of piety and devotion; and the day before his death, Lady Masham being alone with him, and sitting by his bed-side, he exhorted her to regard this world only as a state of preparation for a better; adding, that he had lived long enough, and thanked God for having passed his life so happily.

He died 1704.

Mr. Des Maizeaux observed, that "Mr. Locke had great knowledge of the world  
and

and of the business of it. He won people's esteem by his probity: his wisdom, his experience, his gentle and obliging manners, gained him the respect of his inferiors, the esteem of his equals, the friendship and confidence of those of the highest quality."

Mr. Coste says, that those who lived any time with Mr. Locke could not help observing in him one thing, which was, that he took delight in making use of his reason in every thing he did; and nothing that was attended with any usefulness seemed unworthy of his care; so that we may say of him what was said of Queen Elizabeth, that he was no less capable of small things than of great. He often used to say himself, that there was an art in every thing.

Among the honours paid to our author's memory may be mentioned that of the late Queen Caroline, who, on having erected a pavilion in honour of philosophy, placed therein our author's bust, on a level with Bacon, Newton, and Clarke, as the four prime English philosophers.

Dr. Towers has also paid the following tribute to his memory, with reference to the general character of Mr. Locke—  
“that he was rendered truly illustrious by his wisdom and his virtue, by the disinterestedness and uprightness of his conduct, by his love of truth, and by his ar-



dent attachment to the great interests of mankind. He analysed the human mind, explained its operations, and illuminated the intellectual world by the sagacity of his researches. He examined into the foundation of civil government, and maintained the justice, the reasonableness, and the necessity of religious toleration. He laboured to elucidate the Sacred Scriptures, to advance the interests of revelation and of virtue; and his name will continue to be revered wherever learning, liberty, and virtue, shall be held in estimation."



## JOHN MILTON.

OUR sublime Poet was descended from an ancient family of that name, at Milton, near Abingdon, in Oxfordshire. The family had been long seated there, as appears by the monuments still to be seen in the church of Milton. His father pursued the business of a scrivener. But a man of Milton's genius needs not have the circumstances of birth called in to render him illustrious; he reflects the highest honour upon his family, which receives from

from him more glory than the longest descent of years can give.

He was educated under a domestic tutor, and likewise at St. Paul's school, under Mr. Alexander Gill, where he made, by his indefatigable application, an extraordinary progress in learning. From his twelfth year he generally sat up the greatest part of the night at his studies, which occasioning frequent head-achs, proved very prejudicial to his eyes, and, in his own opinion, laid the foundation of his future blindness. In the year 1625, he was entered at Christ's college in Cambridge, under the tuition of Mr. William Chappel, afterwards Bishop of Ross in Ireland. The same year he wrote a Latin elegy on the death of Dr. Andrews, Bishop of Winchester.

After he had taken the degree of master of arts, in 1631, he left the university, and for the space of five years lived with his parents at their house at Horton, near Colnbrook, in Buckinghamshire, where his father, having acquired a competent fortune, thought proper to retire, and spend the remainder of his days.

In his retirement at Horton, which lasted five years, he read over all the Greek and Latin authors, and closely applied himself to the study of history, and to improving himself in poetry.

In the year 1634 he produced his Masque of Comus, performed at Ludlow Castle, before John Earl of Bridgewater, then president of Wales. His poetical fame, from the first appearance of his *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, began to be circulated.

Upon the death of his mother, Milton obtained leave of his father to travel, and set out for France, accompanied only by one servant, who attended him through all his travels.

At Paris, he was introduced to the famous Hugo Grotius; from thence he went to Florence, Sienna, Rome, and Naples; in all which places he was entertained with the utmost civility by persons of the first distinction.

When our poet was at Naples, he was introduced to the acquaintance of Giovanni Baptista Manso, Marquis of Villa, a Neapolitan nobleman, celebrated for his taste in the liberal arts, to whom Tasso addresses his "Dialogue on Friendship," and whom he likewise mentions in his "Gierusalemme Liberata," with great honour. This nobleman showed extraordinary civilities to Milton, frequently visited him at his lodgings, and accompanied him when he went to see the several curiosities of the city.

He



He arrived safe in England, after an absence of fifteen months, in which he had seen much of the world, read the characters of famous men, examined the policy of different countries, and made more extensive improvements than travellers of an inferior genius, and less penetration, can be supposed to do in double the time.

After his return, 1641, he took an active part in the ferment of the nation, and wrote several pamphlets, that found many readers.

He was also admitted into the service of the commonwealth, and was made Latin secretary to the council of state, who resolved neither to write nor receive letters but in the Latin tongue, which was common to all states.

Just before the Restoration, he was removed from his office of Latin secretary, and concealed himself by the advice of his friends till the event of public affairs became tranquil.

Dr. Johnson observes—"that Milton's English poems, though they make no promises of *Paradise Lost*, have this evidence of genius, that they have a cast original and unborrowed.

"Those who admire the beauties of this great poet, sometimes force their own judgment into false approbation of his little pieces, and prevail upon themselves

to think that admirable which is only singular.

“ Of the two pieces, *L'Allegro* and *Il Penseroso*, I believe opinion is uniform; every man that reads them, reads them with pleasure.

“ The greatest of his juvenile performances is the *Masque of Comus*, in which may very plainly be discovered the dawn or twilight of *Paradise Lost*. Milton appears to have formed very early that system of diction and mode of verse which his maturer judgment approved, and from which he never endeavoured nor desired to deviate.

“ His *Paradise Lost* is a poem which, considered with respect to design, may claim the first place, and with respect to performance the second, among the productions of the human mind.

“ By the general consent of critics, the first praise of genius is due to the writer of an epic poem, as it requires an assemblage of all the powers which are singly sufficient for other compositions. Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with truth, by calling imagination to the help of reason.

“ To Adam and to Eve are given, during their innocence, such sentiments as innocence can generate and utter. Their love is pure benevolence and mutual veneration.

veneration; their repasts are without  
 luxury, and their diligence without toil.  
 Their addresses to their Maker have little  
 more than the voice of admiration and  
 gratitude. Fruition left them nothing to  
 ask, and Innocence left them nothing to  
 fear."

To give the reader an idea of the beauty  
 and sublimity of this poem, we willingly  
 transcribe the following

### MORNING HYMN.

THESE are thy glorious works, Parent of Good!  
 Almighty! thine this universal frame  
 Thus wondrous fair! thyself how wondrous then!  
 Unspeakable! who sitt'st above these heav'ns,  
 To us invisible, or dimly seen  
 In these thy lowliest works; yet these declare  
 Thy goodness beyond thought, and pow'r divine.  
 Speak ye who best can tell, ye sons of light,  
 Angels; for ye behold him, and with songs  
 And choral symphonies, day without night,  
 Circle his throne rejoicing; ye in heav'n,  
 On earth join all ye creatures to extol  
 Him first, him last, him midst, and without end.  
 Fairest of stars, last in the train of night,  
 If better thou belong not to the dawn,  
 Sure pledge of day, that crown'd the smiling morn  
 With thy bright circlet, praise him in thy sphere,  
 While day arises, that sweet hour of prime.  
 Thou sun! of this great world both eye and soul,  
 Acknowledge him thy greater; sound his praise  
 In thy eternal course, both when thou climb'st,  
 And when high noon hast gain'd, and when thou fall'st.  
 Moon, that now meet'st the orient sun, now fly'st  
 With the fix'd stars, fix'd in their orb that flies;  
 And ye five other wand'ring fires, that move  
 In mystic dance not without song, resound



His praise, who out of darkness call'd up light.  
 Air, and ye elements, the elder birth  
 Of Nature's womb, that in quaternion run  
 Perpetual circle, multiform, and mix,  
 And nourish all things; let your ceaseless change  
 Vary to our great Maker still new praise.  
 Ye mists and exhalations, that now rise  
 From hill or streaming lake, dusky or grey,  
 Till the sun paint your fleecy skirts with gold,  
 In honour to the world's great Author rise,  
 Whether to deck with clouds th' uncolour'd sky,  
 Or wet the thirsty earth with falling showers,  
 Rising or falling still advance his praise.  
 His praise, ye winds, that from four quarters blow,  
 Breathe soft or loud; and wave your tops, ye pines,  
 With every plant, in sign of worship wave.  
 Fountains, and ye, that warble as ye flow,  
 Melodious murmurs, warbling tune his praise.  
 Join voices all, ye living souls; ye birds,  
 That singing up to heav'n gate ascend,  
 Bear on your wings and in your notes his praise.  
 Ye that in waters glide, and ye that walk  
 The earth, and stately tread, or lowly creep;  
 Witness if I be silent, morn or even,  
 To hill or valley, fountain or fresh shade,  
 Made vocal by my song, and taught his praise.  
 Hail, universal Lord! be bounteous still  
 To give us only good; and if the night  
 Have gather'd ought of evil, or conceal'd,  
 Disperse it, as now light dispels the dark.

"The thoughts which are occasionally  
 called forth in the progress of this poem,  
 are such as could only be produced by an  
 imagination in the highest degree fervid  
 and active, to which materials were sup-  
 plied by incessant study and unlimited  
 curiosity. The heat of Milton's mind  
 might be said to sublimate his learning,  
 to throw off into his work the spirit of  
 science,

science, unmingled with its groffer parts.—He had confidered creation in its whole extent, and his descriptions are therefore learned.

“ Of his moral sentiments it is hardly praise to affirm that they excel those of all other poets; for this superiority he was indebted to his acquaintance with the sacred writings.

“ Of *Paradise Regained*, the general judgment seems now to be right, that it is in many parts elegant, and every where instructive. It was not to be supposed that the writer of *Paradise Lost* could ever write without great effusions of fancy, and exalted precepts of wisdom. The basis of *Paradise Regained* is narrow; a dialogue without action can never please like an union of the narrative and dramatic powers. Had this poem been written not by Milton, but by some imitator, it would have claimed and received universal praise.

“ His great works were performed under discountenance, and in blindness, but difficulties vanished at his touch; he was born for whatever is arduous, and his work is not the greatest of heroic poems, only because it is not he first.”—He died 1674.

A splendid edition of *Paradise Lost* and *Regained* has been just published by Mr. Boydell, in 3 volumes folio.

## SIR ISAAC NEWTON.

**MR. ISAAC NEWTON**, our great philosopher, and prodigy of philosophical and mathematical learning, was born at Woolsthorpe, in Lincolnshire, on Christmas-day, in 1642.

His father dying, left him lord of that manor while he was yet a child. His mother did not neglect to take a becoming care of her son's education, and at twelve years of age put him to the free-school at Grantham in the same county. It was not her design to breed him a scholar: but the youth showed so little disposition to turn his thoughts any other way, and at the same time stuck so closely to his books, that his mother concluded it best to let him pursue the bent of his own inclinations. For that purpose, she sent him back to Grantham, whence, at 18 years of age, he removed to Cambridge, where he was admitted into Trinity college, in the year 1660.

The study of the mathematics had been introduced into the university in the beginning of this century. From that period, the elements of geometry and algebra



gebra became generally one branch of a tutor's lectures to his pupils; but particularly Mr. Newton, at his admission, found Dr. Barrow, the most eminent mathematician of the time, fellow of his college.

Our author, therefore, by thus turning his thoughts to the mathematics, seems to have done no more than fall in, as well with his own particular situation, as with the general taste of that time; but then it is universally confessed, he did it with a genius that was superior to all that ever went before him.

For a beginning, he took up Euclid's Elements; he run his eye over the book, and at sight was master of every proposition in it.

About this time he observed, that the greatest mathematical professors were busied in finding out improvements to telescopes, and he threw aside all abstracted speculations, to engage in this more useful study.

He applied himself, in the year 1666, to the grinding of optic glasses of other figures than spherical, having no distrust as yet of the homogeneous nature of light; but not hitting presently upon any thing in this attempt which succeeded to his mind, he procured a glass prism, in order to try the celebrated phænomena of colours,

lours, not long before discovered by Grimaldi.

He was much pleased at first with viewing the vivid brightness of the colours produced by this experiment, and became immediately surpris'd to see them in an oblong form; which, according to the received rule of refractions, ought to have been circular; he therefore presently invented an infallible method of deciding it, and this produced his New Theory of Light and Colours.

Amidst these thoughts, he was forced from Cambridge by the plague; however, he was far from passing away the hours in a negligence of thought in the country; on the contrary, it was here, at this time, that he first started the hint that gave rise to the system of the world, which is the main subject of his Principia.

In the year 1667 he was chosen fellow of his college, and took the degree of master of arts. His thoughts were now again engaged upon his newly-projected telescope by reflection; which, being a very useful invention, he was most desirous to complete. This, therefore, he set himself to find out, when Dr. Barrow resigning the mathematical chair at Cambridge to him, in November 1669, the business of that professorship interrupted his attention to the telescope.

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As his thoughts had been for some time chiefly employed upon optics, he made his discoveries in that science the subject of his lectures for the three first years after he was appointed mathematical professor.

He had not finished these lectures when he was chosen Fellow of the Royal Society in January, 1672; and, having now brought his theory of light and colours to a great degree of perfection, he communicated it to that society first, to have their judgment upon it; and it was afterwards published in their Transactions of February, 1672.

He next resumed his reflecting-telescope, the most immediately useful part of his optics. He sent it to the Royal Society, at their request, together with a description of it; which was afterwards published in the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1672.

In 1680 he made several astronomical observations upon the comet that then appeared; which, for some considerable time, he took not to be one and the same, but two different comets, against the opinion of Mr. Flamsteed.

He published, under the care of Dr. Halley, 1687, his *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. From hence it appears, that this treatise, full of such a variety of profound inventions, was composed



posed from scarcely any other materials than the few propositions he had previously laid down, in the space of eighteen months.

The second edition, with great additions and improvements by the author, was printed in 1713.

The third edition, with still further improvements by the author, was published at London, in 4to, under the care of Henry Pemberton, M. D.

This book, in which our author had built a new system of natural philosophy, upon the most sublime geometry, did not meet at first with all the applause it deserved, and was one day to receive.

Mr. Newton had, with an unparalleled penetration, pursued Nature up to her most secret abodes, and was intent to demonstrate her residence to others, rather than anxious to point out the way by which he arrived at it himself. At last, when his worth came to be sufficiently known, the approbation which had been so slowly gained became universal, and nothing was to be heard from all quarters but one general shout of admiration.

“Does Mr. Newton eat, or drink, or sleep, like other men?” says the Marquis l’Hôpital, one of the greatest mathematicians of the age, to the English who visited him: “I represent him to myself as a celestial genius, entirely disengaged from matter.”

After

After this, he was chosen one of the university representatives in the convention parliament, in 1688, in which he attended till its dissolution.

Charles Montague, being bred at the same college, obtained of the king, for Mr. Newton, in 1696, the office of warden of the mint. This post put him in a capacity of doing signal services in that affair, which was of so great importance to the nation; and, three years after, he was promoted to be master of the mint, a place worth from 12 to 1500*l.* per annum, which he held till his death.

The Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris having made a new regulation for admitting foreigners into that society, Mr. Newton was immediately elected a member of that academy.

In 1703 he was chosen president of the Royal Society; and he remained in that honourable station to the time of his death.

In 1704 he published, at London, in 4to, his *Optics*; or, a *Treatise of the Reflections, Refractions, Inflections, and Colours of Light*.

But his assiduous philosophical researches for so many years were far from being confined to the subject of light alone: on the contrary, all that we know of natural bodies seemed to be comprehended in it; he had found out that there  
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was a mutual action at a distance between light and other bodies; by which both the reflections and refractions, as well as inflections, of the former, were constantly produced.

In 1705, Queen Anne, in consideration of his extraordinary merit, conferred the honour of knighthood upon him. From this period, until his death, he was employed in various philosophical researches.

On Saturday morning, March 18, 1726, he read the newspapers, and discoursed a long time with Dr. Mead, his physician, having then the perfect use of all his senses and his understanding; but that night he entirely lost them all; and not recovering them after, he died on the Monday following.

His body, on the 28th of March, was conveyed to Westminster abbey. The corpse was interred just at the entrance into the choir, on the left hand, where a stately monument was erected to his memory.

In contemplating his profound mind, it presently becomes a doubt which of these endowments had the greatest share in his composition; sagacity, penetration, strength, or diligence. But he himself spoke of his own abilities with great modesty.

One day, when one of his friends had said some handsome things of his extraordinary talents, Sir Isaac, in an easy and un-



unaffected way, assured him, that, for his own part, he was sensible that whatever he had done worth notice was owing to a patience of thought, rather than any extraordinary sagacity which he was endowed with above other men. "I keep the subject constantly before me, and wait till the first dawnings open slowly, by little and little, into a full and clear light."

He never thought either his merit or reputation sufficient to excuse him from any of the common offices of social life. No singularities, either natural or affected, distinguished him from other men.

With respect to his religious sentiments, though he was firmly attached to the church of England, he was averse to the persecution of the non conformists.—He was thoroughly persuaded of the truth of revelation, and, amidst the great variety of books which he had constantly before him, that which he studied with the greatest application was the BIBLE.

He did not neglect the opportunities of doing good, which the revenues of his patrimony and a profitable employment, improved by a prudent economy, put into his power.

After Sir Isaac's death, there were found among his papers several discourses upon  
sub-

subjects of antiquity, history, divinity, chemistry, and mathematics; some of which have been published.

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### ALEXANDER POPE.

ALEXANDER POPE was born in London, May 22, 1688, of parents whose rank or station was never ascertained: we are informed that his father was of a family of which the Earl of Downe was the head, and that his mother was the daughter of William Turner, Esq. of York.

This, and this only, is told by Pope, who is more willing, as I have heard observed, to show what his father was not, than what he was. It is allowed that he grew rich by trade; but whether in a shop or on the Exchange was never discovered, till Mr. Tyers told, on the authority of Mrs. Racket, that he was a linen-draper in the Strand.

Pope was, from his birth, of a constitution tender and delicate; but is said to have shown remarkable gentleness and sweetness of disposition. The weakness of his body continued through his life, but the mildness of his mind perhaps ended

ended with his childhood. His voice, when he was young, was so pleasing, that he was called, in fondness, the *little Nightingale*.

Being not sent early to school, he was taught to read by an aunt; and when he was seven or eight years old, became a lover of books. He first learned to write, by imitating printed books; a species of penmanship in which he retained great excellence through his whole life, though his ordinary hand was not elegant.

When he was about eight, he was placed in Hampshire, under Taverner, a Romish priest, who, by a method very rarely practised, taught him the Greek and Latin rudiments together. He was now first regularly initiated in poetry by the perusal of Ogylby's *Homer*, and Sandys's *Ovid*.

From the care of Taverner, under whom his proficiency was considerable, he was removed to a school at Twyford, near Winchester, and again to another school about Hyde Park Corner; from which he used sometimes to stroll to the play-house, and was so delighted with theatrical exhibitions, that he formed a kind of play from Ogylby's *Iliad*.

Of a youth so successfully employed, and so conspicuously improved, a minute account must be naturally desired; but curiosity must be contented with confused,  
im-



imperfect, and sometimes improbable intelligence.

His primary and principal purpose was to be a poet, with which his father accidentally concurred, by proposing subjects, and obliging him to correct his performances by many revisals; after which the old gentleman, when he was satisfied, would say, *these are good rhymes*.

The earliest of Pope's productions is his *Ode on Solitude*, written before he was twelve.

He sometimes imitated the English poets, and professed to have written at fourteen his poem upon *Silence*.

Next year he was desirous of opening to himself new sources of knowledge, by making himself acquainted with modern languages; and removed for a time to London, that he might study French and Italian.

He then returned to Binfield, and delighted himself with his own poetry. He tried all styles and many subjects. He wrote a comedy, a tragedy, an epic poem, with panegyrics on all the princes of Europe; and, as he confesses, *thought himself the greatest genius that ever was*.

Most of his puerile productions were, by his maturer judgment, afterwards destroyed.

From the age of sixteen the life of Pope, as an author, may be properly com-

computed. He now wrote his Pastorals, which were shown to the poets and critics of that time; as they well deserved, they were read with admiration.

The account given by himself of his studies was, that from fourteen to twenty he read only for amusement, from twenty to twenty-seven for improvement and instruction; that in the first part of this time he desired only to know, and in the second he endeavoured to judge.

In 1709 was written the *Essay on Criticism*; a work which displays such extent of comprehension, such nicety of distinction, such acquaintance with mankind, and such knowledge both of ancient and modern learning, as are not often attained by the maturest age and longest experience.

Not long after, he wrote the *Rape of the Lock*, the most airy, the most ingenious, and the most delightful of all his compositions.

Of the Epistle from *Eloisa to Abelard*, I do not know the date.—This piece was, however, not much his favourite in his latter years, though I never heard upon what principle he slighted it.

In the next year (1713) he published *Windsor Forest*; of which part was, as he relates, written at sixteen, about the same time as his Pastorals.

He

He next resolved to try how far the favour of the public extended, by soliciting a subscription to a version of the *Iliad*, with large notes.—To print by subscription was, for some time, a practice peculiar to the English.

The *Iliad* was published volume by volume, as the translation proceeded; the four first books appeared in 1715. The expectation of this work was undoubtedly high, and every man who had connected his name with criticism, or poetry, was desirous of such a book.

While the volumes of his *Homer* were annually published, he collected his former works (1717) into one quarto volume, to which he prefixed a Preface, written with great sprightliness and elegance.

The publication of the *Iliad* was at last completed in 1720.

He gave in the following year an edition of *Shakspeare*.

Soon after the appearance of the *Iliad*, resolving not to let the general kindness cool, he published proposals for a translation of the *Odysssey*, in five volumes, for five guineas.

On the English *Odysssey* a criticism was published by Spence, at that time Prelector of Poetry at Oxford. With this criticism Pope was so little offended, that he sought the acquaintance of the writer, who



who lived with him from that time in great familiarity, attended him in his last hours, and compiled memorials of his conversation.

In 1728 he began to put Atterbury's advice in practice, and showed his satirical powers by publishing the *Dunciad*, one of his greatest and most elaborate performances, in which he endeavoured to sink into contempt all the writers by whom he had been attacked, and some others whom he thought unable to defend themselves.

Without his name, in 1733 was published the first part of the *Essay on Man*.

The second and third Epistles were published; and Pope was, I believe, more and more suspected of writing them: at last, in 1734, he avowed the fourth, and claimed the honour of a moral poet.

Pope lived at this time *among the great*, with that reception and respect to which his works entitled him, and which he had not impaired by any private misconduct or factious partiality.

It was said, that, when the court was at Richmond, Queen Caroline had declared her intention to visit him.

He published from time to time (between 1730 and 1740) Imitations of different poems of Horace, generally with his name, and once, as was suspected, without it.

In May 1744 his death was approaching; on the sixth, he was all day delirious, which he mentioned four days afterwards as a sufficient humiliation of the vanity of man.

In the morning, after the priest had given him the last sacraments, he said—“There is nothing that is meritorious but virtue and friendship, and indeed friendship itself is only a part of virtue.”

He died in the evening of the 30th day of May, 1744, so placidly, that the attendants did not discern the exact time of his expiration. He was buried at Twickenham, near his father and mother, where a monument has been erected to him by his commentator, the Bishop of Gloucester.

Of his social qualities, if an estimate be made from his Letters, an opinion too favourable cannot easily be formed; they exhibit a perpetual and unclouded effulgence of general benevolence, and particular fondness. There is nothing but liberality, gratitude, constancy, and tenderness. It has been so long said as to be commonly believed, that the true characters of men may be found in their Letters, and that he who writes to his friend lays his heart open before him.

As a poet, in his day he unquestionably had no rival: there is a harmony and sweetness in his numbers that makes his  
style

style his own. As a specimen, we select the following lines

### ON VIRTUE.

KNOW thou this truth (enough for man to know),  
 "Virtue alone is happiness below."  
 The only point where human bliss stands still,  
 And tastes the good without the fall to ill;  
 Where only Merit constant pay receives,  
 Is blest in what it takes, and what it gives;  
 The joy unequall'd if its end it gain,  
 And if it lose, attended with no pain:  
 The broadest mirth unfeeling Folly wears,  
 Less pleasing far than Virtue's very tears:  
 Good, from each object, from each place acquir'd,  
 For ever exercis'd, yet never tir'd;  
 Never elated, while one man's oppress'd;  
 Never dejected, while another's blest'd;  
 And where no wants, no wishes can remain,  
 Since but to wish more Virtue, is to gain.

See the sole bliss Heav'n could on all bestow!  
 Which who but feels can taste, but thinks can know:  
 Yet poor with fortune, and with learning blind,  
 The bad must miss; the good, untaught, will find;  
 Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,  
 But looks through Nature, up to Nature's God:  
 Pursues that chain which links th' immense design,  
 Joins heav'n and earth, and mortal and divine;  
 Sees, that no being any bliss can know,  
 But touches some above, and some below;  
 Learns, from this union of the rising Whole,  
 The first, last purpose of the human soul;  
 And knows where Faith, Law, Morals, all began,  
 All end, in LOVE OF GOD, and LOVE OF MAN.

His works have been published in various forms and sizes. The most uniform edition to be had is that by Warton,  
 H lately



lately published in 9 volumes octavo, and Wakefield's edition of Homer, in 11 volumes ditto.

### MRS. ELIZABETH ROWE.

**M**R. ELIZABETH ROWE, not more admired for her fine writings by the ingenious that did not know her, than esteemed and loved by all her acquaintance, for the many amiable qualities of her heart, was born at Ilchester, in Somersetshire, Sept. 11, 1674, being the eldest of three daughters of Mr. Walter Singer, a gentleman of a good family.

Mr. Singer was religiously inclined, as he said himself, when about ten years old, and never from that time neglected prayer, and, as far as he knew his own heart, had sincerely endeavoured to keep a good conscience; and he died, as he had lived, April 18, 1719, full of that blessed calm and peace of mind and humble confidence in the mercy of God. What an instance of the power of religion; and the true dignity of human nature, when raised and supported by the grace of God and the hope of immortality! Every one

one who rightly considers such examples, and how naturally they arise out of the principles of the gospel, firmly believed, and steadily practised upon, must be entirely persuaded by them; persuaded to embrace it, not merely as a pleasing imagination, but a most sacred truth.

Those who were acquainted with Mrs. Rowe in her childish years, could not but have observed a great many things not common in that age of life, which promised the bright day that afterwards ensued; and it must have been with peculiar satisfaction that her father, in whom parental affection conspired with a penetrating discernment to heighten the pleasure, beheld the early dawns of a great and good mind in his charming daughter.

When she received the first serious impressions of religion does not appear; not unlikely it might be as soon as she was capable of it, at once perceiving her obligation to the Author of her being.—Of her pious addresses, she herself thus speaks: “My infant hands were early lifted up, and I soon learned to know and acknowledge the God of my fathers.”—Though she had an unusual sprightliness in her temper, yet she was at the same time blest with a turn of mind to noble and elevated subjects, that gave her a high relish for the pleasures of devotion.

There is so great a similitude between painting and poetry, as being each of them a pleasing and judicious imitation of nature, and depending upon the beauty and strength of the imagination, that it is no way surprising, one who possessed this faculty in so high a degree of perfection did very early discover an inclination to these two sister-arts.

She loved the pencil when she had hardly strength and steadiness of hand sufficient to guide it. She was also much delighted with music; chiefly of the grave and solemn kind, as best suited to the grandeur of her sentiments and the sublimity of her devotion.

But her strongest bent was to poetry and writing. Poetry, indeed, was her favourite employment, in youth her most distinguishing excellence. So prevalent was her genius this way, that her very prose hath all the charms of verse, without the fetters; the same fire and elevation, the same bright images, bold figures, rich and flowing diction. She could hardly write a familiar letter but it bore the stamp of the poet. One of her acquaintance remembers to have heard her say, she began to write verses at twelve years old.

In the year 1696, the 22d of her age, a collection of her poems, on various occasions,



fions, was published, at the desire of two of her friends.

As a proof of her studious mind, she has said—

“ For rather would I in some humble cell,  
Distant from all that's gay, for ever dwell,  
Than waste my flying hours, and thus divide  
My time, 'twixt folly, calumny, and pride;  
Still trifling, thus debase the gift of sense,  
And live the slave of dull impertinence.”

We select the following as a specimen of her poetic talents:

“ WHILE night in solemn triumph reigns,  
Ascend, my soul, the heavenly plains;  
Thy flight to those gay regions take:  
Angels and God are still awake.  
The smiling stars will light thy way  
To the gladsome realms of day:  
While drowsy men with idle themes,  
Fantastic joys, and airy dreams,  
Are entertain'd; do thou converse  
With heaven, and heavenly strains rehearse;  
Visit the peaceful climes above,  
And through the fields of pleasure rove;  
Forget the scenes of care and strife,  
And walk among the trees of life;  
Taste the rich fruits of paradise,  
And bathe in flowing streams of bliss:  
Solac'd in those eternal springs,  
Lose every thought of mortal things.”

Though many of these poems are of the religious kind, and all of them consistent with the strictest regard to the

rules of virtue, yet some things in them gave her uneasiness in advanced life. To a mind that had so entirely subdued its passions, or devoted them to the honour of its Maker, and endued with the tenderest moral sense, what she could not absolutely approve, appeared unpardonable; and, not satisfied to have done nothing that injured the sacred cause of virtue, she was displeased with herself for having written any thing that did not directly promote it.

Her Paraphrase of the 38th chapter of Job was written at the request of Bishop Kenn, who was entertained in that family, and gained her a great deal of reputation.

She had no other tutor for the French and Italian languages than the Honourable Mr. Thynne, son to the Lord Viscount Weymouth, who willingly took that task upon himself, and had the pleasure to see his fair scholar improve so fast under his lessons, that in a few months she was able to read Tasso's Jerusalem with great ease.

Her shining merit, with the charms of her person and conversation, had procured her a great many admirers: but Mr. Thomas Rowe was the person reserved by Heaven to be made happy with this amiable woman.

As

As Mrs. Rowe's exalted merit and amiable qualities could hardly fail to inspire the most lasting esteem, Mr. Rowe knew how to value that treasure which the divine Providence had given to him. 'Twas some considerable time after his marriage that he wrote to her a very tender ode, under the name of Delia, full of the warmest sentiments of friendship and affection.

Mr. Rowe not living very long to enjoy the society of his amiable wife, as soon after his decease as her affairs would permit, she indulged her unconquerable inclinations to solitude, by retiring to Frome, in Somersetshire, in the neighbourhood of which place the greater part of her estate lay. When she forsook the town, she determined to return to it no more, but to conceal the remainder of her life in an absolute retirement.

It was in this recess that she composed the most celebrated of her works, *Friendship in Death*, and the several parts of the *Letters Moral and Entertaining*.

"The drift of the *Letters from the Dead* is (as the late Dutchess of Somerset expresses) to impress the notion of the soul's immortality, without which all virtue and religion, with their temporal and eternal good consequences, must fall to the ground; and to make the mind contract, as it were unawares, an habitual



persuasion of our future existence, by writings built on that foundation, and addressed to the affections and imagination."

It may also be added, that the design both of these and the Letters Moral and Entertaining, is, by fictitious examples of heroic virtue, and the most generous benevolence, to allure the reader to the practice of every thing that ennobles human nature, and benefits the world.

Mr. Cowley has observed of Mrs. Rowe, "that she possessed so much strength and firmness of mind, and such a perfect natural goodness, as could not be perverted by the largeness of her wit, and was proof against the art of poetry itself." For the elegant Letters which gave occasion to remark this distinction in Mrs. Rowe's character as an author, are not only chaste and innocent, but greatly subservient to the interest of Heaven, and evidently designed, by representing Virtue in all her genuine beauty, to recommend her to the choice and admiration of mankind.

Her death, to prepare for which she had made so much the business of her life, beset her, according to her wish, in her beloved recess. She enjoyed an uncommon strength of constitution, and had passed a long series of years with  
scarce

scarce any indisposition severe enough to confine her to her bed.

On the day that she was seized with a distemper, which in a few hours proved mortal, she seemed to those about her to be in perfect health and vigour; and in the evening, about eight of the clock, she conversed with a friend, with all her wonted vivacity, and not without laughter, after which she retired to her chamber, but expired a few minutes before two, on Sunday morning, February 20, 1736-7.

Mrs. Rowe seemed, by the gaiety and cheerfulness of her temper, to be peculiarly fitted to enjoy life, and all its innocent satisfactions: yet, instead of any excessive fondness for things present and visible, her contempt for what she used to term a low state of existence, and a dull round of insipid pleasures, and the ardour with which she breathed after the divine enjoyments of a future world, were inconceivably great.

The news of her death touched the poor and distressed with inexpressible affliction; and at her doors, and over her grave, they bewailed the loss of their benefactor, poured forth blessings on her memory, and recounted to each other the gentle and condescending manner with which she had always heard their

requests, and the numerous instances in which they had experienced her goodness and bounty.

### IGNATIUS SANCHO.

**T**HIS extraordinary negro was born in 1729, on board a ship in the slave-trade, a few days after it had quitted the coast of Guinea for the Spanish West Indies, and, at Carthagená, he received from the hand of the bishop baptism, and the name of Ignatius.

At little more than two years old, his master brought him to England, and gave him to three maiden sisters, resident at Greenwich, whose prejudices had unhappily taught them that African ignorance was the only security for his obedience, and that to enlarge the mind of their slave would go near to emancipate his person.

The late Duke of Montagu lived on Blackheath: he accidentally saw the little negro, and admired in him a native frankness of manner as yet unbroken by servitude, and unrefined by education—he brought him frequently home to the dutchess,



chefs, indulged his turn for reading with presents of books, and strongly recommended to his mistresses the duty of cultivating a genius of such apparent fertility.

His mistresses, however, were inflexible, and even threatened, on angry occasions, to return Ignatius Sancho to his African slavery. The love of freedom had increased with years, and began to beat high in his bosom; and his intention was to abandon the family.

His noble patron being dead, Ignatius therefore flew to the dutchess for protection, who dismissed him with reproof.— He retired from her presence in a state of despondency for his situation; but the dutchess secretly admired his character, and at length consented to admit him into her household, where he remained as butler till her death, when he found himself, by her grace's bequest and his own economy, possessed of 70*l.* in money, and an annuity of 30*l.*

We are sorry to remark, that 70*l.* which to many would have been productive of gaining a little fortune, was not husbanded by Sancho so well as it should have been, as freedom, riches, and leisure, naturally led a disposition of African texture into indolence; and that, with the generous mind of Ignatius, completely drained the purse.

He therefore turned his mind once more to service, and was retained a few months by the chaplain at Montagu-house. That roof had been ever auspicious to him; and the present duke soon placed him about his person.

Towards the close of the year 1773 repeated attacks of the gout and corpulence rendered him incapable of farther attendance in the duke's family.

At this crisis, the munificence which had protected him through various vicissitudes did not fail to exert itself; with the result of his own frugality, it enabled him and his wife to settle themselves in a shop of grocery, where mutual and rigid industry decently maintained a numerous family of children, and where a life of domestic virtue engaged private patronage, and merited public imitation.

Of a negro, a butler, and a grocer, there are but slender anecdotes to animate the page of the biographer; but it has been held necessary to give some sketch of the very singular man whose *letters* have engaged so many readers, and which entitled and secured to him the protection of the great and the friendship of the literary: they display such proofs of epistolary talents, of rapid and just conception, of wild patriotism, and of universal philanthropy, as evidently prove that the perfection of the reasoning faculties does  
not

not depend on the peculiar colour of the *skin*, and shows that an untutored African may possess equal abilities with an European.

The late Dutcheffes of Queensberry and Northumberland pressed forward to serve our author; and Garrick and Sterne were well acquainted with Ignatius Sancho.

A commerce with the Muses was supported amid the trivial and momentary interruptions of a shop; the Poets were studied, and even imitated with some success.

Such was the man whose species philosophers and anatomists have endeavoured to degrade as a deterioration of the human; and such was the man whom Fuller, with a benevolence and quaintness of phrase peculiarly his own, accounteth

“God’s image, though cut in ebony.”

He who could penetrate the interior of Africa, might, in all probability, discover negro arts and polity, which could bear little analogy to the ignorance and grossness of slaves in the sugar-islands, decoyed in infancy, and brutalized under the whip and the task-master.

And he who surveys the extent of intellect to which Ignatius Sancho had attained by *self-education*, will perhaps conclude, that perfection belonging to man

is



is confined to no soil—in defiance of that wild opinion, “which,” says a learned writer of these times, “restrains the operations of the mind to particular regions, and supposes that a luckless mortal may be born in a degree of latitude too high or too low for wisdom or for wit.”

He died 1780.—His letters were published in two volumes.

To record those thoughts which once had a place in the bosom of our honest African, we willingly transcribe the following letter:

Charles-street, Feb. 14, 1768.

*“My worthy and much-respected Friend,*

“YOUR friendly letter convinced me that you are still the same—and gave, in that conviction, a ten fold pleasure:—you carried out (through God’s grace) an honest, friendly heart, a clear, discerning head, and a soul impressed with every humane feeling. That you are still the same—I repeat it—gives me more joy than the certainty would of your being worth ten jaghires:—I dare say you will ever remember that the truest worth is, that of the mind—the blest rectitude of the heart—the conscience unsullied with guilt—the undaunted noble eye, enriched with innocence—peace dancing in the heart, and health smiling in the face.—May these be ever thy companions!—

and

and for riches, you will ever be more than vulgarly rich.

“You have a turn for reflection, and a steadiness, which, aided by the best of social dispositions, must make your company much coveted, and your person loved.—Forgive me, for presuming to dictate, when I well know you have many friends much more able from knowledge and better sense—though I deny—a better will.

“You will of course make men and things your study—their different genius, aims, and passions: you will also note climes, buildings, soils, and products, which will be neither tedious nor unpleasant. If you adopt the rule of writing every evening your remarks on the past day, it will be a kind of friendly *tête-à-tête* between you and yourself, wherein you may sometimes happily become your own monitor;—and hereafter those little notes will afford you a rich fund, whenever you shall be inclined to re-trace past times and places.—I say nothing upon the score of religion—for, I am clear, every good affection, every sweet sensibility, every heart-felt joy—humanity, politeness, charity—all, all are streams from that sacred spring.

“I have nothing more to say. Continue in right thinking, you will of course act well: in well-doing, you will insure

the favour of God, and the love of your friends, amongst whom pray reckon

Yours faithfully,

IGNATIUS SANCHO.



### WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE.

**I**T seems to be a kind of respect due to the memory of excellent men, especially of those whom their wit and learning have made famous, to deliver some account of themselves, as well as their works, to posterity: for this reason, how fond do we see some people of discovering any little personal story of the great men of antiquity! their families, the common accidents of their lives, and even their features, have been the subject of critical inquiries.

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**WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**, the father of the English theatre, the great poet of nature, and the glory of the British nation, was descended of a reputable family at Stratford upon Avon. His father, John, who was in the wool trade, and dealt considerably that way, had ten children,  
of



of whom our immortal poet was the eldest, and was born April 16, 1564.

At a proper age he was put to the free-school in Stratford, where he acquired the rudiments of grammar-learning. His father, however, had no design to make a scholar of him; on the contrary, he took him early from school, and employed him in his own business; but he did not continue long in it, for, happening to fall into acquaintance with some persons who followed the practice of deer-stealing, he was prevailed upon to engage with them in robbing Sir Thomas Lucy's park, near Stratford. The injury being repeated more than once, that gentleman was provoked to enter a prosecution against the delinquents; and Shakespeare, in revenge, made him the subject of a ballad, which, tradition says, was pointed with so much bitterness, that it became unsafe for the author to stay any longer in the country.

To escape the law, he fled to London, where, as might be expected from a man of wit and humour, in his circumstances, he threw himself among the players.—His first admission into the play-house was suitable to his appearance; a stranger, and ignorant of the art, he was glad to be taken into the company in a very mean rank; nor did his performance recommend him to any distinguished notice.

The

The part of an under-actor neither engaged nor deserved his attention; it was far from filling, or being adequate to the powers of his mind; and therefore he turned the advantage which that situation afforded him to a higher and nobler use. Having, by practice and observation, acquainted himself with the mechanical economy of the theatre, his native genius supplied the rest: but the whole view of his first attempts in stage poetry being to procure a subsistence, he directed his endeavours solely to hit the taste and humour that then prevailed amongst the meaner sort of people, of whom his audience was generally composed; and, therefore, his images of life were drawn from those of an inferior rank. But when his performances had merited the protection of his prince, and the encouragement of the court had succeeded to that of the town, the works of his riper years were manifestly raised above the level of his former productions.

It is said, that Queen Elizabeth was so much pleased with the delightful character of Sir John Falstaff, in the two parts of Henry the Fourth, that she commanded the author to continue it for one play more, and to show the knight in love; which he executed inimitably, in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

The

The names of his patrons are now unknown, except that of the Earl of Southampton, who is particularly honoured by him in the dedication of two poems, *Venus and Adonis*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

In the beginning of King James the First's reign (if not sooner) he was one of the principal managers of the play-house, and continued in it several years afterwards; till, having such a fortune as satisfied his moderate wishes and views in life, he quitted the stage and all other business, and passed the remainder of his time in an honourable ease, at his native town of Stratford, dying April 23, 1616.

He was interred among his ancestors, on the north side of the chancel, in the great church of Stratford, where there is a handsome monument erected for him.

In 1740 another very noble one was raised to his memory, at the public expense, in Westminster-abbey, an ample contribution for this purpose being made, upon exhibiting his tragedy of *Julius Cæsar*, at the theatre royal in Drury-lane, April 28, 1738.

In the *Biographia Dramatica* is a list of our author's plays, specifying the years in which they are severally supposed to have been written. The arrangement of them is adopted from that of Mr. Malone, the  
accu-



accuracy of which, not having been disputed, we may presume has received the sanction of the learned.

As there may be an useful lesson gained by the due observance of Cardinal Wolsey's last words to Cromwell, we transcribe them:

CROMWELL, I did not think to shed a tear  
In all my miseries, but thou hast forc'd me,  
Out of thy honest truth, to play the woman——  
Let's dry our eyes; and thus far hear me, Cromwell,  
And when I am forgotten, as I shall be,  
And sleep in dull, cold marble, where no mention  
Of me must more be heard, say then I taught thee;  
Say, WOLSEY, that once rode the waves of glory,  
And sounded all the depths and shoals of honour,  
Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in;  
A sure and safe one, though thy master mis'd it.  
Mark but my fall, and that which ruin'd me:  
Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition;  
By that sin fell the angels; how can man then  
(Tho' th' image of his Maker) hope to win by't?  
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that wait thee;  
Corruption wins not more than honesty.  
Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
To silence envious tongues. Be just, and fear not.  
Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
Thy God's, and Truth's; then if thou fall'st, O  
Cromwell,  
Thou fall'st a blessed martyr. Serve the king——  
And pr'ythee lead me in——  
There take an inventory of all I have,  
To the last penny, 'tis the king's. My robe,  
And my integrity to Heav'n, is all  
I dare now call my own. O Cromwell, Cromwell,  
Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal  
I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age  
Have left me naked to mine enemies.

It is very singular that no vestige, comparatively speaking, of this great man's writings, has ever been found.

His works have been published by Mr. Steevens, in 15 volumes octavo.



WILLIAM STRAHAN, Esq.

**W**ILLIAM STRAHAN, Esq. a very eminent printer, was born at Edinburgh, 1715, and apprenticed there to the profession which he pursued through life.

Coming early to London, with no dependence but on his own industry, his capacity, diligence, and probity, raised him at length to great eminence. Indeed so striking an example of successful perseverance in honest industry cannot be too strongly recommended to my younger readers; and I shall be excused, perhaps, if, anxious to promote its effects, I dwell a little on this subject.

Sober, diligent, and attentive, while his emoluments were for some time very scanty, Mr. Strahan contrived to live rather within than beyond his income, and cherished with good effect that happy flow of animal spirits that is not easily discouraged by unpromising appearances.

By

By him who can look with firmness upon difficulties, their conquest is already half achieved; but the man on whose heart and spirits they lie heavy will scarcely be able to bear up against their pressure. The forecast of timid, or the disgust of too delicate minds, are very unfortunate attendants for men of business, who, to be successful, must often push improbabilities, and bear with mortifications.

Mr. Strahan's abilities in his profession, accompanied with perfect integrity and unabating diligence, enabled him, after the first difficulties were overcome, to get on with rapid success; and he was one of the most flourishing men in the trade, when, in the year 1770, he purchased a share of the patent for king's printer of Mr. Eyre.

Having now attained the first great object of business, wealth, Mr. Strahan looked with a very allowable ambition on the stations of political rank and eminence, and in the year 1775 was elected a member of parliament for Malmesbury, in Wiltshire, with a very illustrious colleague, the Hon. C. J. Fox, and in the succeeding parliament for Wootton-Basfet, in the same county; but, feeling some decline in his health, which had rather suffered from the long sittings and late



late hours with which the political warfare in the last parliament had been attended, he did not show any desire to resume his situation in the new one.

This decline gradually increasing, put an end to his life July 9, 1785, in the 71st year of his age.

The uninterrupted health and happiness which accompanied Mr. Strahan through a career of above half a century, proves honesty to be the best policy, temperance the greatest luxury, and the essential duties of life its most agreeable amusement. —In his elevated fortune none of his former acquaintance ever accused him of neglect. He attained prosperity without envy, enjoyed wealth without pride, and dispensed bounty without ostentation.

After the example of his old friend and neighbour, Mr. Bowyer, he bequeathed 1000*l.* to the company of stationers; the interest to be divided in annuities of 5*l.* each, amongst infirm old printers; of whom one half are to be natives of England or Wales, and the other half of North Britain.

Endued with much natural sagacity and an attentive observation of life, Mr. Strahan owed his rise to that station of opulence and respect which he attained, rather to his own talents and exertion, than to any accidental occurrence of favourable or fortunate circumstances.

Letter.

Letter-writing was one of his favourite amusements; and among his correspondents were men of such eminence and talents as well repaid his endeavours to entertain them. One of these was the celebrated Dr. Franklin, originally a printer, like Mr. Strahan, and his fellow-workman in early life in a printing-house in London, whose friendship and correspondence he continued to enjoy till his death.

There are stations of acquired greatness which make men proud to recall the lowness of that from which they rose. The native eminence of Franklin's mind was above concealing the humbleness of his origin. Those only who possess no intrinsic elevation are afraid to sully the honours to which accident has raised them by the recollection of that obscurity whence they sprung. Of this recollection Mr. Strahan also was rather proud than ashamed; he neither triumphed over the inferiority of those he had left below him, nor forgot the equality in which they had formerly stood. His advice was always ready to direct youth, and his purse open to relieve indigence.

If among the middling and busy ranks of mankind, this short account can afford an encouragement to the industry of those who are beginning to climb into life, or furnish a lesson of moderation to those  
who

who have attained its height; if to the first it may recommend honest industry and sober diligence, if to the latter it may suggest the ties of ancient fellowship and early connexion, or cheer one hour of despondency or discontent to the young; the higher and more refined class of my readers will forgive the familiarity of the example, and consider that it is not from the biography of heroes or of statesmen that instances can be drawn to prompt the conduct of the bulk of mankind, or to excite the useful, though less splendid, virtues of private and domestic life.

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### JAMES THOMSON.

**JAMES THOMSON**, the son of a minister well esteemed for his piety and diligence, was born September 7, 1700, at Ednam, in the shire of Roxburgh, of which his father was pastor. The revenue of a parish in Scotland is seldom large, and it was probably in commiseration of the difficulty with which Mr. Thomson supported his family, having nine children, that Mr. Riccarton, a neighbouring minister, discovering in



James uncommon promises of future excellence, undertook to superintend his education, and provide him books.

He was taught the common rudiments of learning at the school of Jedburgh, a place which he delights to recollect in his poem of *Autumn*.

It is said, on every New-year's day he threw into the fire all the productions of the foregoing year.

From the school he was removed to Edinburgh, where he had not resided two years when his father died, and left all his children to the care of their mother, who raised upon her little estate what money a mortgage could afford, and, removing with her family to Edinburgh, lived to see her son rising into eminence.

He easily discovered that the only stage on which a poet could appear, with any hope of advantage, was London; a place too wide for the operation of petty competition and private malignity, where merit might soon become conspicuous, and would find friends as soon as it became reputable to befriend it.

At his arrival, he found his way to Mr. Mallet, then tutor to the sons of the Duke of Montrose. He had recommendations to several persons of consequence, which he had tied carefully up in his handkerchief; but as he passed along the street, with the gaping curiosity of a new-comer,

comer, his attention was upon every thing rather than his pocket, and his magazine of credentials was stolen from him.

His first want was of a pair of shoes. For the supply of all his necessities, his whole fund was his *Winter*, which for a time could find no purchaser; till, at last, Mr. Millar was persuaded to buy it at a low price.

*Winter* was dedicated to Sir Spencer Compton, but attracted no regard from him to the author; till Aaron Hill awakened his attention by some verses addressed to Thomson, and published in one of the newspapers, which censured the great for their neglect of ingenious men. Thomson then received a present of twenty guineas.

The next year (1727) he distinguished himself by the publication of *Summer*, in pursuance of his plan.

*Spring* was published the year following, with a dedication to the Countess of Hertford; whose practice it was to invite, every summer, some poet into the country, to hear her verses and assist her studies.

*Autumn*, the season to which the *Spring* and *Summer* are preparatory, still remained unfung, and was delayed till he published (1730) his works collected.

There is something so expressive and beautiful in the following lines of our author,

thor, that we encourage the hope that to give them a place here will gratify the reader.

*On Domestic Happiness.*

DELIGHTFUL task! to rear the tender thought,  
To teach the young idea how to shoot,  
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,  
To breathe enlivening spirit, and to fix  
The generous purpose in the glowing breast,  
Oh! speak the joy! ye whom the sudden tear  
Surprises often, while you look around,  
And nothing strikes your eye but sights of bliss;  
All various Nature pressing on the heart:  
An elegant sufficiency, content,  
Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books,  
Ease and alternate labour, useful life,  
Progressive virtue, and approving Heaven:  
These are the matchless joys of virtuous love;  
And thus their moments fly. The Seasons thus,  
As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,  
Still find them happy; and consenting Spring  
Sheds her own rosy garland on their heads:  
Till evening comes at last, serene and mild:  
When after the long vernal day of life,  
Enamour'd more, as more resemblance swells,  
With many a proof of recollected love,  
Together down they sink in social sleep;  
Together freed, their gentle spirits fly  
To scenes where love and bliss immortal reign.

He produced in 1727 the tragedy of *Sophonisba*, which raised such expectation that every rehearsal was dignified with a splendid audience, collected to anticipate the delight that was preparing for the public.

Thomson



Thomson was, not long afterwards, by the influence of Dr. Rundle, sent to travel with Mr. Charles Talbot, the eldest son of the chancellor. He was yet young enough to receive new impressions, to have his opinions rectified, and his views enlarged; nor can he be supposed to have wanted that curiosity which is inseparable from an active and comprehensive mind.

His next performance was *Liberty*, a Poem, which failed of that success the author had promised himself.

Thomson now lived in ease and plenty, and seems for a while to have suspended his poetry; but he was soon called back to labour by the death of the chancellor.

He now relapsed to his former indigence, and produced, in 1738, the tragedy of *Agamemnon*, which was much shortened in the representation.

His next work (1745) was *Tancred and Sigismunda*, the most successful of all his tragedies; for it still keeps its turn upon the stage.

His friend Mr. Lyttelton was now in power, and conferred upon him the office of surveyor-general of the Leeward Islands; from which, when his deputy was paid, he received about three hundred pounds a year.

The last piece that he lived to publish was the *Castle of Indolence*, which was

many years under his hand, but was at last finished with great accuracy.

He was now at ease, but was not long to enjoy it; for, by taking cold on the water between London and Kew, he caught a disorder, which, with some care-less exasperation, ended in a fever that put an end to his life, August 27, 1748. He was buried in the church of Richmond, and a monument has been erected to his memory in Westminster abbey.

Mr. Park has paid the following tribute of respect to the memory of our poet, in a collection of poems lately published.

*Lines written in an Alcove where Thomson composed his Seasons.*

AERIAL Spirits, who forsook your sky,  
To whisper charmed sounds in THOMSON'S ear,  
Of, shaded from the ken of grosser eye,  
Did to the bard in holy trance appear;  
Still guard the sacred grove which once was dear,  
On every leaf inweave a druid-spell,  
And say to the profane, should such come near,  
Here did the woodland-pilgrim form his cell;  
The priest of nature here his temple plac'd,  
And rais'd the incense of his song on high;  
With sylvan honours was his altar grac'd,  
His harp was tun'd to heavenly psalmist'ry;  
Here did he pour to Nature's God the strain!  
And should you scorn the worship, shun the fane.

As a writer, he is entitled to one praise  
of the highest kind; his numbers, his  
pauses,

pauses, his diction, are of his own growth, without transcription, without imitation. He thinks in a peculiar train, and he thinks always as a man of genius; he looks round on nature and on life, with the eye which nature bestows only on a poet; the eye that distinguishes, in every thing presented to its view, whatever there is on which imagination can delight to be detained, and with a mind that at once comprehends the vast, and attends to the minute. The reader of the *Seasons* wonders that he never saw before what Thomson shows him, and that he never yet has felt what Thomson impresses.

His descriptions of extended scenes and general effects bring before us the whole magnificence of nature, whether pleasing or dreadful. The gaiety of *Spring*, the splendour of *Summer*, the tranquillity of *Autumn*, and the horror of *Winter*, take, in their turns, possession of the mind. The poet leads us through the appearances of things as they are successively varied by the vicissitudes of the year, and imparts to us so much of his own enthusiasm, that our thoughts expand with his imagery, and kindle with his sentiments.



## DR. ISAAC WATTS.

**I**SAAC WATTS was born July 17, 1674, at Southampton, where his father, of the same name, kept a boarding-school for young gentlemen, though common-report makes him a shoemaker. He appears, from the narrative of Dr. Gibbons, to have been neither indigent nor illiterate.

Isaac, the eldest of nine children, was given to books from his infancy; and began, we are told, to learn Latin when he was four years old, I suppose, at home. He was afterwards taught Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, by Mr. Pinhorn, a clergyman, master of the free-school at Southampton, to whom the gratitude of his scholar afterwards inscribed a Latin ode.

His proficiency at school was so conspicuous, that a subscription was proposed for his support at the university; but he declared his resolution to take his lot with the Dissenters. Such he was, as every Christian church would rejoice to have adopted. He therefore repaired in 1690 to an academy taught by Mr. Rowe.

His method of study was to impress the contents of his books upon his memory by  
abridging

abridging them, and by interleaving them, to amplify one system with supplements from another.

With the congregation of his tutor Mr. Rowe, who were, I believe, Independents, he communicated in his nineteenth year.

At the age of twenty he left the academy, and spent two years in study and devotion at the house of his father, who treated him with great tenderness; and had the happiness, indulged to few parents, of living to see his son eminent for literature, and venerable for piety.

He was then entertained by Sir John Hartopp five years, as domestic tutor to his son; and in that time particularly devoted himself to the study of the Holy Scriptures; and being chosen assistant to Dr. Chauncey, preached the first time on the birth day that completed his twenty-fourth year; probably considering that as the day of a second nativity, by which he entered on a new period of existence.

We afterwards find him one of the family of Sir Thomas Abney, where he continued till his death; a period of no less than thirty-six years.

From the time of his reception into this family, his life was no otherwise diversified than by successive publications. The series of his works I am not able to deduce; their number, and their variety,

show the intenseness of his industry, and the extent of his capacity.

He was one of the first authors that taught the Dissenters to court attention by the graces of language. Whatever they had among them before, whether of learning or acuteness, was commonly obscured and blunted by coarseness and inelegance of style. He showed them, that zeal and purity might be expressed and enforced by polished diction.

By his natural temper he was quick of resentment; but, by his habitual practice, he was gentle, modest, and inoffensive. His tenderness appeared in his attention to children, and to the poor. To the poor, while he lived in the family of his friend, he allowed the third part of his annual revenue, though the whole was not a hundred a year; and for children, he condescended to lay aside the scholar, the philosopher, and the wit, to write little poems of devotion, and systems of instruction, adapted to their wants and capacities, from the dawn of reason through its gradations of advance in the morning of life. Every man, acquainted with the common principles of human action, will look with veneration on the writer, who is at one time combating Locke, and at another, making a catechism for children in their fourth year. A voluntary descent from the dignity



dignity of science is, perhaps, the hardest lesson that humility can teach.

Of his philosophical pieces, his *Logic* has been received into the universities, and therefore wants no private recommendation. Few books have been perused with greater pleasure than his *Improvement of the Mind*, of which the radical principles may indeed be found in *Locke's Conduct of the Understanding*, but they are so expanded and ramified by Watts, as to confer upon him the merit of a work, in the highest degree useful and pleasing. Whoever has the care of instructing others, may be charged with deficiency in his duty if this book is not recommended.

He continued many years to study and to preach, and to do good by his instruction and example; till at last the infirmities of age disabled him from the more laborious part of his ministerial functions, and, being no longer capable of public duty, he offered to remit the salary appendant to it; but his congregation would not accept the resignation.

As a poet, had he been only a poet, he would have probably stood high among other authors;—for his judgment was exact, and he noted beauties and faults with a very nice discernment. The following extract will give the reader an idea of his talent for this species of composition:

*Lines addressed to John Hartopp, Esq.*

LIVE, my dear Hartopp! live to-day,  
 Nor let the sun look down and say  
 "Inglorious here he lies:"  
 Shake off your ease, and send your name  
 To immortality and fame,  
 By every hour that flies.

Youth's a soft scene, but trust her not;  
 Her airy minutes, swift as thought,  
 Slide off the slipp'ry sphere:  
 Moons, with their months, make hasty rounds,  
 The sun has pass'd his vernal bounds,  
 And whirls about the year.

Not half so fast the galley flies  
 O'er the Venetian sea,  
 When sails, and oars, and lab'ring skies,  
 Contend to make her way.  
 Swift wings for all the flying hours,  
 The God of time prepares;  
 The rest lie still yet in their nest,  
 And grow for future years.

By degrees his weakness increased, and at last confined him to his chamber and his bed; where he was worn gradually away without pain, till he expired November 25, 1748, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

Few men have left behind such purity of character, or such monuments of laborious piety. He has provided instruction for all ages, from those who are lisping their first lessons, to the enlightened readers of Mal-

Malbranche and Locke. He has left neither corporeal nor spiritual nature unexamined; he has taught the art of reasoning, and the science of the stars.

The best edition of his works is in 6 vols. 4to.

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### MAJOR-GENERAL JAMES WOLFE.

**T**HIS distinguished officer will long be remembered. The immortal Wolfe stood forth to rival the greatest characters of antiquity. In his time, an animated love of their country, and an ardent zeal in its service, prevailed among the land and sea officers, which communicated the influence of example to the private men, and, under Providence, produced such a series of rapid and signal successes, as can scarcely be paralleled in the annals of any nation.

The lustre they reflected on the sovereign, on the able minister who had the chief management of public affairs, and on the whole nation, is still fresh in the memories of some of our countrymen.

We shall now lay before our readers the few, but glorious, incidents of the short life of a gallant young officer, who had a principal



principal share in forming the national glory of this æra.

James Wolfe was the son of lieutenant-general Edward Wolfe, an officer of distinguished worth, who served under the Duke of Marlborough, and was very active under General Wightman, in suppressing the rebellion of 1715, in Scotland. His renowned son was born at Westerham, in the county of Kent, January, 1726. It is to be lamented that we have no memoirs of his juvenile years; for in the first dawnings of reason, men of superior genius often discover unerring indications of uncommon abilities; perhaps in his very sports and pastimes we might have traced that amazing fortitude, indefatigable assiduity, cool judgment, and alacrity, for which he was afterwards so justly famed.

He must have been educated for the army almost from his infancy, since honourable mention is made of his personal bravery at the battle of La-feldt, in Austrian Flanders, fought in the year 1747, when he was only in the twentieth year of his age. The gradations of his rise are not ascertained; we are only informed, that, during the whole war, he continued improving his military talents, that he was present at every engagement, and never passed undistinguished. His promotion, therefore, must have been as rapid as his merit was great.

In

In the year 1754 a fresh rupture with France seemed inevitable; but war was not formally declared till 1756; and for a short time nothing but disappointments and losses attended the British arms, till Mr. Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham, being firmly seated at the head of administration, gave one of the most striking proofs of his superior abilities, by seeking for, and employing in the land and sea service men of the most enterprising and active genius, who had signalized themselves upon important occasions, either from their years or experience. Of this number was Colonel Wolfe, who was raised by the minister to the rank of brigadier-general, and sent out under Major-General Amherst, upon the grand expedition against Louisbourg, the capital of the island of Cape-Breton. At the siege of this important place he greatly raised his military reputation; for he was the first general officer who landed the left division of the army, amidst the strong and continued fire of the enemy from their batteries on the shore. The indefatigable Wolfe, with his detached party, raised several batteries, wherever he found a proper situation for annoying the enemy; and these did great execution, both within the town, and upon the shipping in the harbour. On the 27th day of July, 1758, Louisbourg surrendered, and Captain Amherst

herst was dispatched in a vessel to carry the joyful news to England; he also carried with him eleven pair of colours taken at the siege, which were carried in great triumph from the palace at Kensington to St. Paul's.

The principal share Brigadier Wolfe was known to have had in this important conquest, induced Mr. Pitt to make choice of him to command a still more capital expedition the ensuing campaign: with this view he was promoted to the rank of major-general.

The plan of operations for the campaign of 1759 in North America was then concerted in the cabinet; and it was resolved that Wolfe, as soon as the season of the year would admit, should sail up the river St. Laurence, with a body of 8000 men, aided by a considerable squadron of ships from England, to undertake the siege of Quebec. The fleets from England destined for that expedition, under the command of the admirals Saunders and Holmes, arrived at Louisbourg in May, and took on board the 8000 land-forces, whose operations at Quebec were to be conducted by General Wolfe, as commander in chief. The armament sailed up the river St. Laurence without any interruption, and, about the latter end of June, the troops were landed in two divisions upon the isle of Orleans, a little below Quebec.

General



General Wolfe, upon landing, published a manifesto, offering every protection and indulgence to the inhabitants, if they would remain neuter; he represented to them, in the strongest terms, the folly of resistance, as the English fleet were masters of the river St. Laurence, so as to intercept all succours from Europe. This humane declaration, which, to the honour of General Wolfe, was penned in the most persuasive and pathetic style, had no immediate effect.

The city of Quebec was skilfully fortified, defended by a numerous garrison, and plentifully supplied with provisions and ammunition. Montcalm had reinforced the troops of the colony with five regular battalions, formed of the choicest citizens, and had completely disciplined all the Canadians of the neighbourhood capable of bearing arms, with the several tribes of savages. With this army he had taken post in a very advantageous situation along the shore, every accessible part of his camp being deeply intrenched.

In July the British forces crossed the north channel in boats, and encamped on the banks of the river Montmorenci, which separated them from the left division of the enemy's camp; by which means he could find an opportunity of engaging Montcalm upon more advantageous terms, than directly to attack his intrenchments.

At

At length dispositions were made for attacking the enemy's intrenchments, in order to bring on a general engagement; and, on the last day of July, it was resolved to form a redoubt built close to the water's edge, and within gun-shot of the intrenchments: but, instead of defending it, which must have produced the effect Wolfe expected, the French abandoned it; and thirteen companies of our grenadiers, animated by the confusion they observed the French were thrown into from the hot fire kept up by the Centurion, while the troops were landing from boats, on the enemy's side of the river, inconsiderately rushed on to the French intrenchments, without waiting for the disembarkation of the rest of the army; this ill-timed impetuosity, and another accident of some boats getting aground off Point Levi, disconcerted the whole plan, for the grenadiers were repulsed.

Deprived of all hopes of reinforcement, General Wolfe returned without molestation to his old camp on the other side of the river; and here disappointment and fatigue threw him into a fever and flux, which reduced him very low. And in this unhappy state of mind and body, he dispatched an express to England with an account of his proceedings, but written in the style of a desponding man. Yet, such was the perspicuity and accuracy of his

his justification of his measures, that the dispatch was received with applause, though the expedition had not been successful.

As soon as the general recovered a little strength, he went on board the admiral; and these two commanders, with a proper armament, went up the river, passed the town unmolested, and reconnoitred it, in order to judge if an assault was practicable.

A resolution was now formed to change the plan of operations; and the three brigadiers advised the general to transport the troops in the night, and land them within a league of Cape Diamond, below the town, in hopes of ascending the Heights of Abraham, which rise abruptly with a steep ascent from the banks of the river, that they might gain possession of the plain at the back of the city.

The necessary preparations being made, and the time fixed for this most astonishing attempt, Admiral Holmes, with a view of deceiving the enemy, moved with his squadron higher up the river than the old camp, but in the night, pursuant to his instructions, he fell down the river to cover the landing of the troops. About one in the morning of the 12th of September, the first embarkation, consisting of four complete regiments, the light infantry, commanded by colonel Howe, a detachment of Highlanders, and the American grenadiers,



grenadiers, fell gently down the river in flat-bottom boats, under the conduct of the brigadiers Monckton and Murray; but General Wolfe accompanied them, and was among the first that landed.—The Marquis de Montcalm was thunderstruck at the intelligence, that the English had gained the Heights of Abraham; and knowing the weakness of the city on that side, he was at no loss to determine that a general engagement was unavoidable.

About nine in the morning the enemy advanced to the charge with great order and resolution, but their fire was irregular and ineffectual. On the contrary, the British forces reserved their shot until the French had approached within forty yards of their line: then they poured in a terrible discharge, and continued the fire with the greatest activity and success. The gallant General Wolfe was stationed on the right, the post of honour, for here the attack was most warm. As he stood, dauntless and conspicuous, in the front of the line, he had been aimed at by the enemy's marksmen, and received a shot in his wrist; but neither pain nor danger had any effect to make him retire from his station. Having wrapped an handkerchief round his wrist, he continued giving his orders without emotion, and advanced at the head of the grenadiers, with their bayonets fixed, when another ball, most probably

probably from the same marksman, pierced the breast of this intrepid hero, who fell in the arms of victory, just as the enemy gave way.

The wounded general was carried off to a small distance in the rear, where, roused from fainting fits, in the agonies of death, by the loud cry of *They run! they run!* he, with great eagerness inquired, "Who run?" and being told the French, and that they were defeated, he added, in a faltering voice, "Then I thank God; I die contented!" and almost instantly expired.

This glorious victory having formed so conspicuous a part in the character of our general, has made us dwell longer on it than we otherwise should have done.

A mixture of pity and affliction attended the national triumph upon this occasion, and was strongly expressed in the congratulatory addresses, presented by all the corporate bodies and public societies of the three kingdoms, to King George II.

His private character was not less exalted than his public, and equally exemplary to the British officers. With the greatest independency of spirit, he was free from pride. Generous, almost to profusion; he contemned every little art for the acquisition of wealth, whilst he searched after objects for his charity and beneficence: the deserving foldier never went unrewarded, and the needy inferior officers

officers often tasted of his bounty. Constant and discerning in his attachments; manly and unreserved, yet gentle, kind, and conciliating in his manners; he enjoyed a large share of the friendship, and almost the universal good-will of mankind: and, to crown all, sincerity and candour, a true sense of honour, justice, and public liberty, seemed the inherent principles of his nature, and were the uniform rules of his conduct.—A handsome monument is erected to his memory in Westminster abbey.

### DR. EDWARD YOUNG.

**T**HE celebrated author of the Night Thoughts, Dr. Edward Young, was born in the year 1684, at Upham, in Hampshire, of which place his father, Dr. Edward Young, dean of Sarum, was then rector. At a proper age he was sent to Winchester school, where he became a scholar upon that foundation. From thence he was removed to Oxford; and according to the statutes of each foundation, admitted of New college in the year 1703; but being superannuated, and there being no fellowship vacant, he removed, before the expiration of the year, to Corpus Christi college, where he entered himself a gentleman



tleman commoner. In 1708, he was put into a law-fellowship at All Souls by Archbishop Tennison, into whose hands it came by a devolution. In consequence of this preferment, in 1714, he took the degree of bachelor of laws; and in 1719 he became a doctor of laws.

He had applied himself to the study of poetry with such success, that he produced the same year a tragedy, called *Buſiris*, which was acted with applause; and, in 1721, this play was followed by another, entitled, *the Revenge*, which is esteemed his best dramatic performance. He afterwards brought a third tragedy upon the stage, entitled, *the Brothers*. The second and third of these pieces still continue to be played, and are admired by the lovers of the drama.

About the year 1723, our author published a Poem on the *Last Day*, in three books; which coming from the pen of a layman, was honoured with peculiar applause. This production was soon followed by another, entitled, *the Force of Religion, or Vanquished Love*, a Poem, in two books; which was well received by the public.

As a poet, Dr. Young has other, and far better, claims upon posterity for reputation, than what arise from these performances; but, whatever may be their intrinsic merit, they served to introduce him to the notice of several of the nobility.

In

In the year 1730 he was presented by his college to the valuable rectory of Welwyn, in Hertfordshire.—Polite literature still attracted his regard, and, amidst his severer studies, he continued to cultivate his poetical talent.

His satires, which were entitled *The Love of Fame, or the Universal Passion*, were well received by the public; but his most celebrated performance is his *Night Thoughts*, which still continues a favourite, and deservedly so.

In 1775 he published, in 8vo, *The Centaur not fabulous; in Six Letters to a Friend, on the Life in Vogue*.

As Dr. Young possessed so much merit, and had been appointed chaplain to King George II. so early as the year 1728, it has been thought extraordinary that he never obtained any preferment in the church, but ended his days upon a living, which came to him from his college without any favour.

He was a man of considerable genius, of great piety, and of amiable and virtuous manners in private life. The turn of his mind was naturally solemn; and, during his residence in the country, he commonly spent some hours in a day amongst the tombs in his own church-yard. His writings have been much admired, and have all a peculiar moral tendency.